

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, February 6, 2014



LIGHTS OUT

An ice covered tree limb that took out a utility line blocks the path of a firetruck after a winter storm Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014, in Philadelphia. More than a million homes and businesses were left in darkness and cold Wednesday after snow, sleet and freezing rain moved into the Northeast. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

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Over 1 Million In The Dark As Storm Slams Northeast



CVS CHAIN WILL
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HOLLAND: RED
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Google reaches agreement with EU over antitrust case

JUERGEN BAETZ
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's antitrust watchdog on Wednesday accepted "far-reaching" concessions offered by Google to settle allegations it is abusing its dominant position in Internet searches, bringing the three-year-old case close to an end.

Google would significantly change the ways it displays some search results in Europe in favor of its competitors. But reaching a settlement will spare the company a longer antitrust procedure that could have resulted in fines of up to 10 percent of the company's annual revenue, or about \$5 billion.

EU Antitrust Commissioner Joaquin Almunia said he's "strongly convinced" the U.S. company's proposals — its third attempt to address the competition concerns — are sufficient.

"This is an important step forward," he told reporters in Brussels.

Google's proposals will now be sent to the 18 original plaintiffs for evaluation before the Commission makes a final decision in the coming months. Initial reactions from plaintiffs and consumer groups were unanimously negative, but Almunia said he was confident the deal with Google will be upheld.

Under its latest proposal, Google will commit to display results from three competitors in a similar way to its own whenever it promotes its specialized search services like Google shopping, restaurant or hotel searches. It will also label more clearly search results stemming from its own services to allow users to distinguish between natural search results and those promoted by Google.

A shopping search for a gas grill, for example, would yield two boxes of the same size and position at the top of the search results page, one showing three "Google shopping results" and immediately to the left of it three results labeled "Alternatives", according to an example provided by the Commission.

At present, only Google's own results are displayed prominently above all other search results. The changes will also be valid for search results displayed on mobile devices.

"Without preventing Google from improving its own services, it provides users with real choice between competing services presented in a comparable way," Almunia said.

The results from three competing search providers would be chosen using Google's web search algorithm and, in most cases, other search services would have to pay for their placement through an auction mechanism — a solution that competitors and consumer groups alike criticized for strengthening Google's already dominant position.

The EU Commission last year threw out two sets of proposed concessions by Google because they were deemed insufficient.

"We will be making significant changes to the way Google operates in Europe," said Kent Walker, Google's general counsel. Google declined to discuss financial repercussions of the decision.

Once a settlement is reached, the concessions will be legally binding for five years across the 28-country European Union, the world's largest economy. The company, based in Mountain View, California, has a market share of about 90 percent of Internet searches in Europe, compared with around 70 percent in the U.S.

"The concessions are far-reaching and have the clear potential of restoring a level playing field with competitors, said Almunia. "No antitrust authority in the world has obtained such concessions." □

Sochi: Russia anti-gay laws condemned

OSKAR GARCIA
Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — A U.S. Olympic sponsor and U.N. panel condemned a Russian law criticized as a stifling of gay rights as protests took place around the world Wednesday, keeping an irritant to the hosts of the Winter Olym-

interview with a gay school teacher who defended homosexuality. Detractors have pressed the International Olympic Committee and its corporate sponsors to denounce the law and call for its repeal, launching a campaign on several fronts in July that included a boycott of Russian vod-

ring to the Olympic Games held in Nazi Germany. Single person protests are legal in Russia, and the two activists holding signs were spaced far enough apart that neither was arrested. Protesters also gathered in Jerusalem, as the New York-based advocacy group All Out planned



A gay rights activist holds a banner in front of a large clock showing the number of days left until the start of the Olympic games as a police officer approaches, left, in St. Petersburg, Russia, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014. Russian gay rights activists protested the upcoming Olympic Games in Sochi. Two activists unfurled banners reading "Berlin 1936 = Sochi 2014," referring to the Olympic Games that were held in the capital of Nazi Germany. One-man pickets are legal in Russia and the two activists holding signs were spaced far enough apart that neither was arrested.

(AP Photo/Elena Ignatyeva)

pics front and center two days ahead of the opening ceremony.

Some athletes, barred by IOC rules from political debate while competing, hinted at the law as they began training for events that start Thursday. American figure skater Ashley Wagner joked that Sochi's color scheme — omnipresent inside the Olympic Park — reminded her of the rainbow flag used to symbolize gay pride.

"It doesn't really matter where I am. It's still my opinion," Wagner said. "I just believe in equality for all." The law signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin in July bans pro-gay "propaganda" that could be accessible to minors. Critics say it is so restrictive that it forbids almost any public expression of support for gay rights. Last month, for example, a newspaper editor in Russia's Far East was fined 50,000 rubles (\$1,400) for publishing an

ka.

One of those sponsors, McDonald's, was targeted Wednesday by protesters in London and Paris, where about 50 people gathered in front of one of the fast-food chain's restaurants in the Place de la Republique square to chant "No to Russia's anti-gay law!" and carry banners with slogans such as "Russia we are with you but we're against your anti-gay law."

In London, about 150 people rallying outside Prime Minister David Cameron's office in London urged McDonald's and the IOC's other sponsors to speak out. The activists there said they plan to deliver a petition signed by more than 100,000 people to a nearby McDonald's restaurant. In downtown St. Petersburg, hundreds of miles north of Sochi, about a dozen Russian gay rights activists also protested. Two unfurled banners reading "Berlin 1936 = Sochi 2014," refer-

demonstrations there and in several other cities worldwide, including Rio de Janeiro, the site of the 2016 Summer Games.

Also Wednesday, a U.N. committee on children's rights urged Russia to repeal the law, saying it encourages discrimination and violence. A day earlier, AT&T Inc. called the law harmful to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and harmful to a diverse society.

"We support LGBT equality globally and we condemn violence, discrimination and harassment targeted against LGBT individuals everywhere," AT&T said in the post on its website.

AT&T said its statement was a reply to a request from the Human Rights Campaign, an advocacy group that supports the civil rights of LGBT people and has urged the International Olympic Committee's official sponsors to stand up for LGBT equality. □

Over 1 Million In The Dark As Storm Slams Northeast

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - More than a million homes and businesses were left in darkness and cold Wednesday after snow, sleet and freezing rain moved into the Northeast. The region's second winter storm of the week canceled classes, closed government and business offices and sent cars and trucks sliding on slippery roads and highways. Around a foot of snow fell in some states. Moving in overnight from the Midwest, where it wreaked similar havoc, the storm tested the region already battered by a series of heavy snows and below-freezing temperatures this winter.

PENNSYLVANIA

Ice and snow brought down trees and limbs and knocked out power to some 750,000 customers. Most of the outages were in the Philadelphia suburbs, and PECO, the major utility company, warned it could be the weekend before some people get their lights back on. The Pennsylvania Turnpike was closed around Harrisburg, the state capital, for more than 13 hours after a fatal crash Tuesday night. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Administration reported delays and some cancellations on suburban Philadelphia routes, while Amtrak suspended its Philadelphia-to-Harrisburg service indefinitely because of downed trees on wires and along tracks. Many schools were closed.

NEW YORK

Up to a foot of snow fell in places upstate; hundreds of schools upstate were closed. Four inches of snow and a quarter-inch of ice covered New York City. The state deployed 3,500 tons of stockpiled road salt to New York City, where supplies were running low, while plows and other heavy equipment aimed to keep roads clear. A 65-mile stretch of Interstate 84 between the Pennsylvania and Connecticut borders was closed to all vehicles

until mid-afternoon. The Metropolitan Transit Authority said Metro-North Railroad service was reduced by 18 percent on morning trains.

NEW JERSEY

Gov. Chris Christie declared a state of emergen-

cy and state employees working in the executive branch to stay home.

RHODE ISLAND

Nearly all schools in Rhode Island were closed, and state police responded to several traffic accidents. The General Assembly

NEW HAMPSHIRE

At the Mount Sunapee Resort ski area, the lot was filling up with skiers undeterred by a trek through the snow. In Newport, the snow helped pick up the pace of ticket sales for an outdoor "Yankee Luau" on the town common Wednes-

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Maryland Transit Administration reduced the number of afternoon trains out of Washington on the MARC Brunswick line. Two morning trains hit fallen trees on the tracks; no one was hurt. Passengers on the first disabled train were



Dogs play in the snow in Washington Park on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014, in Albany, N.Y. Hundreds of schools across upstate New York are closed and authorities are advising against any unnecessary travel as a snowstorm moves across the region.

(AP Photo/Mike Groll)

cy and state offices were closed for non-essential employees, as the state got snow in northern parts, sleet and freezing rain in some areas, and all rain in southern counties. Tens of thousands of customers were without power, and schools were closed or delayed. NJ Transit operated on a storm schedule. Buses and trains were cross-honoring tickets.

MASSACHUSETTS

The storm dropped nearly a foot in parts of Massachusetts. In Boston, Worcester, Springfield and elsewhere, schools and colleges canceled classes. The state's trial courts also closed for the day. Gov. Deval Patrick told all non-essential

canceled its sessions. The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority warned of delays. Snow turned to sleet and rain in some parts of the state.

CONNECTICUT

The start of the General Assembly's annual session was delayed from Wednesday to Thursday because of the snow. Gov. Dannel P. Malloy also ordered a delayed opening for state offices on Wednesday. Many schools were closed. Metro-North Railroad said the storm disabled a few commuter trains, forcing riders to transfer to other rail cars, while a few trains were canceled. Ridership was cut in half as thousands of commuters stayed home.

day as part of the town's 98th Winter Carnival. The snow boded well for skijoring events this weekend, a popular attraction that had to be canceled the past two years because of a lack of snow. The sport features horseback riders towing a person on skis over jumps and through other obstacles.

ILLINOIS

A Chicago runner was credited with helping save a man who fell into freezing cold Lake Michigan with his dog. Adam Dominik says he found twine and anchored it around himself while throwing the other end in the water, pulling the man onto nearby rocks.

put on a later train that also hit a fallen tree about a mile down the line, and the passengers were transferred again.

FATALITIES:

In Kansas, two traffic deaths Tuesday south of Pittsburg in Crawford County were blamed on the weather; a third, near Hesston, was believed weather related.

POWER OUTAGES:

By Wednesday evening, power outages remained above 1 million. They included: Pennsylvania, 750,000; Maryland, 140,000; New Jersey, 44,000; Arkansas, 48,000; Kentucky, 10,000; New York, 8,000; Delaware, 6,000; Indiana, 2,500; Connecticut, 300. □

US warns of explosives in toothpaste tubes

**ALICIA A. CALDWELL
JOAN LOWY**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Homeland Security Department is warning airlines flying to Russia that terrorists may try to smuggle explosives on board hidden in toothpaste tubes. The threat was passed onto airlines that have direct flights to Russia, including some that originate in the

United States, according to a law enforcement official speaking Wednesday on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss details of the warning. The official said the airlines were warned that explosive devices could be assembled in flight or upon arrival at the Olympics. The department said in a statement that the U.S.

"isn't aware of a specific threat to the homeland at this time." It said the department "regularly shares information with domestic and international partners, including those associated with international events such as the Sochi Olympics."

Delta Airlines is the only U.S. carrier with a direct flight from the United States to Moscow. Russian airlines Aeroflot and Transaero both operate several nonstop flights from the U.S. United Airlines, the official airline of the U.S. Olympic team, does not have scheduled service to Russia but is operating some charter flights to Sochi. The warning became public on the eve of the Winter Olympics. □

Woman executed in Texas for 1998 torture and killing

**MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press**

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A woman convicted of torturing and killing a mentally impaired man she lured to Texas with the promise of marriage was put to death Wednesday evening in a rare execution of a female prisoner. The lethal injection of Suzanne Basso, 59, made her only the 14th woman executed in the U.S. since the Supreme Court in 1976 allowed capital punishment to resume. Almost 1,400 men have been put to death during that time. Basso told a warden, "No sir," when asked to make a final statement. She appeared to be holding back tears, then smiled at two friends watching through a nearby window. She mouthed a brief word to them and nodded. As the drug took effect, she began to snore. Basso was pronounced dead at 0026 GMT, 11 minutes after the lethal dose of pentobarbital began. She was sentenced to die for the 1998 slaying of 59-year-old Louis "Buddy" Musso, whose battered and lacerated body, washed with bleach and scoured with a wire brush, was found in a ditch outside Houston. Prosecutors said Basso had made herself the beneficiary of Musso's insurance policies and took over his Social Security benefits after luring him from New Jersey. The execution, the second this year in Texas, came about an hour after the Supreme Court rejected a last-day appeal from Basso's attorney who argued she was not mentally competent. Lower federal courts and state courts also refused to halt the punishment, upholding the findings of a state judge last month that Basso had a history of fabricating stories about herself, seeking attention and manipulating psychological tests. □

AP sources: Hoffman probe tip leads to 4 arrests

**TOM HAYS
Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Four people were taken into custody on drug charges after police investigating the death of actor Philip Seymour Hoffman executed search warrants at several New York City apartments, two people with

marijuana were found Tuesday night in the three apartments in a lower Manhattan building. The four suspects — three of whom live in the building — face charges of criminal possession of a controlled substance. Two also face charges of criminal use of drug paraphernalia.

tor's apartment after he was found dead has tested negative for the powerful additive fentanyl. Samples taken from Hoffman's apartment didn't contain the potent synthetic morphine, which is added to intensify the high and has been linked to 22 suspected overdose deaths in

final hours using video surveillance to determine his whereabouts. The 46-year-old actor was found dead in his bathroom. His door was double-locked when his body was found around 11:30 a.m. by his assistant and a friend, law enforcement officials have said.

Besides the bank records, investigators discovered buprenorphine, a drug used to treat heroin addiction, at Hoffman's apartment and are examining a computer and two iPads found at the scene for clues, two law enforcement officials said. Police have said the medical examiner's ruling on his cause of death will determine whether there is any criminality but they suspect it was an overdose. No official determination has been made yet.

More than 50 small plastic envelopes of heroin were recovered in Hoffman's apartment along with syringes, a charred spoon and various prescription medications, including a blood pressure drug and a muscle relaxant, law enforcement officials have said. Some of the packets were variously stamped with the ace of hearts and others with the ace of spades, they said. Addiction specialist Dr. Louis Baxter, a former president of the American Society of Addiction Medicine, said addicts, especially those who have built up high tolerances, can use as much as two bundles of heroin, or about two dozen packets, per day. □



People listen to actor Eric Bogosian speak during a candlelight vigil for actor Philip Seymour Hoffman at the Bank Street Theater, home of the Labyrinth Theater Company, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014, in New York. Hoffman died Sunday of a suspected drug overdose.

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

knowledge of the investigation said Wednesday. A confidential source provided a tip that the suspects may have supplied Hoffman drugs, according to the people, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because investigators have not obtained evidence to corroborate the reported connection. Police say undisclosed quantities of heroin and

Hoffman was found dead Sunday in his Greenwich Village apartment with a syringe in his arm. The NYPD's intensive effort to determine the source of the drugs in an apparent accidental overdose is unusual. Courts have found that under state law drug dealers cannot be held liable for a customer's death. On Tuesday, a police official said heroin recovered at the Oscar-winning ac-

western Pennsylvania, said the official, who wasn't authorized to talk about the evidence and insisted on anonymity. Investigators also determined that the "Capote" star made six bank machine transactions for a total of \$1,200 inside a supermarket near his home the day before his death, law enforcement officials said Tuesday. They've been piecing together his

US states look to rein in government surveillance

NIGEL DUARA

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) —

Revelations of National Security Agency surveillance programs have prompted state lawmakers around the United States to propose bills to curtail the powers of law enforcement to monitor and track citizens. Republican and Democratic lawmakers have joined in proposing the measures, reflecting the unusual mix of political partnerships that have arisen since former NSA analyst Edward Snowden began revealing how the agency collected information on millions of Americans' phone calls. Both conservative limited government advocates and liberal privacy supporters have opposed the surveillance programs.

Proponents say the states' measures will overhaul outdated digital privacy laws and help increase oversight of specific surveillance tools that law enforcement agencies have been using that critics say mirrors federal surveillance technology.

The bills taking shape in at least 14 states include a Colorado proposal that would limit the retention of images from license plate readers, an Oregon bill that would require "urgent circumstances" to obtain mobile phone location data and a Delaware plan that increases privacy protections for text messages. Supporters say the measures are needed because technology has grown to the point that police can digitally track someone's every move.

"We need to stand up and protect our liberty," said Republican Missouri state Sen. Rob Schaaf, author of a digital privacy bill.

Police groups, however, say the moves will in some cases hinder efforts to deter or solve crimes. "It would cripple law enforcement's ability to do investigations," said Bart Johnson, executive director of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Devices such as license plate readers and mobile phone trackers "can tell whether you stayed in a motel that specializes in hourly rates, or you stopped at tavern that has nude dancers," said David Fidanque, director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon.

"It's one thing to know you haven't violated the law, but it's another thing to know you haven't had every one of your moves tracked," he said.

As for digital privacy, bills promoting broader protections against email surveillance have popped up recently in various states with varying results. One proposal became law in Texas last year, but a similar measure was vetoed in California where the governor said it was too onerous for police to follow.

But proposals focused specifically on police surveillance are a new variety. Schaaf's proposal in Missouri for a legislatively mandated ballot measure would add electronic data to a list of property protected from unreasonable search and seizure. If it passes, it would go before voters in November.

In Indiana, legislators have put forward a bill that would ban the warrantless use of a portable device that can track mobile phone movements within a mile (two kilometers), as well as the numbers of incoming and outgoing calls

and text messages. Indiana lawmakers also want to use warrants to limit the use of tracking devices and surveillance cameras.

Oregon prosecutor Josh Marquis said the legislators' concerns are misplaced.

He said state agencies aren't collecting the kind of metadata the NSA collects and bills curtailing the ability of local authorities to gather intelligence could do more harm than good. Under NSA surveillance

programs that Snowden revealed, the agency sweeps up information about millions of Americans' phone calls: the number called from, the number called and the duration of the call. □



House Judiciary Committee member Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., questions Deputy Attorney General James Cole on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014, during the committee's hearing on Examining Recommendations to Reform FISA Authorities.

(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)



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The Fashion Diaspora: New York Designer Shows Spread Out

Matthew Schneier
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NEW YORK - Driver, thank God you're here. Take me to ... where again?

New York Fashion Week descends upon the city Thursday, and with it, the vexing promise of a weekend of snow and slush. That should make the question of location even more pressing to every editor, retailer, model and hanger-on in town. Gone are the days when most fashion shows huddled together under tents at Bryant Park, a nearly one-stop shop for every

overcrowding and too much commercialization, but it remains the largest single artery for Fashion Week. This season, 69 shows and nonrunway presentations will take place there, among them Herrera's, Anna Sui's and J. Crew's. Jarrad Clark, vice president and global creative director of IMG Fashion, which owns and produces the event, said that certain spaces had been reconceived, the capacity for some reduced and interiors refurbished to address criticisms. An additional 10 pre-

tened last season by Calvin Klein.

"Even I feel like four, five years ago, showing that far downtown was not that much of an option," Altuzarra said. "The breadth of where shows are now occurring is sort of interesting." He has reason to be interested. Altuzarra is participating in a one-season-only swap of time slots with his friend Alexander Wang to help ease scheduling tension caused by Wang's out-of-the-way choice of location: the Duggal Greenhouse in the Brooklyn



Guests at the Rachel Comey fashion show at a venue in the Brooklyn Borough of New York. Lincoln Center will be the hub of the upcoming installment of New York Fashion Week, with 69 shows and non-runway presentations, but the field is widening to include more shows downtown, and independent shows as far out as Brooklyn.

(Elizabeth Lippman/The New York Times)

Tommy Hilfiger, Michael Kors and Carolina Herrera. (Gone, too, are the days when Fashion Week was an actual week. "It's really like there's no traffic cop anymore," said Michael Bastian, who moved his show to Tuesday, Feb. 4, two full days before the "official" start of Fashion Week.)

Lincoln Center plays the part that Bryant Park once did. But this main site now faces competition from an insurgent downtown hub, and independent shows held everywhere from Chelsea to Wall Street to (cue gasps) Brooklyn.

Things fall apart. The Lincoln Center cannot hold. The complex has weathered complaints about

presentations will be held at what organizers are calling The Hub at the Hudson Hotel about five blocks away. But the field is widening. The organizers of MADE Fashion Week, which caters primarily to up-and-coming designers, have created their own satellite constellation in the meatpacking district, split between Milk Studios on 15th Street and the Standard Hotel. Then there are designers who select still other locations. Several of them, including Joseph Altuzarra, Olivier Theyskens of Theory and high-profile Lincoln Center defectors like Michael Kors and Diane von Furstenberg, have moved to Spring Studios, a new space in Tribeca chris-

Navy Yard. He professed no irritation: "I think going across the river and showing in Brooklyn is an interesting experiment and one that I think probably will happen more and more."

(Would he ever choose Brooklyn? "I think the Altuzarra woman is a very Manhattan person," he said.) Wang's move to the other side of the East River has been much discussed. "We found this incredible space, and it corresponds very well to this season's creative concept," was his explanation, sent via email. Besides, the one he often uses, Pier 94 on 55th Street, is booked for the Westminster Kennel Club's Masters Agility Championship. □

US drugstore chain CVS will stop tobacco products sales

M. FELBERBAUM
TOM MURPHY
AP Business Writers

CVS Caremark, America's second-largest drugstore chain, is quitting selling tobacco products at its more than 7,600 U.S. drugstores as it focuses more on providing health care.

The Massachusetts-based company said Wednesday that it will phase out cigarettes, cigars and chewing tobacco by Oct. 1, a move that will cost about \$2 billion in annual revenue but won't affect its 2014 earnings forecast. CVS Caremark leaders say removing tobacco will help them grow the company's business of working with doctors, hospitals and other care providers to improve customers' health.

CVS Caremark competitor Walgreen Co., the largest U.S. drugstore chain, sells tobacco, as does the world's largest retailer, Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which also operates pharmacies in its stores. But Target Corp., another major retailer with pharmacies in its stores, does not.

Tobacco is responsible for about 480,000 deaths a year in the U.S., according to the Food and Drug Administration, which gained the authority to regulate tobacco products in 2009.

The federal government has renewed efforts to reduce the death and disease caused by tobacco use on the heels of the 50th anniversary of the landmark 1964 surgeon general's report that launched the anti-smoking movement. A new 980-page report issued last month by acting Surgeon General Boris Lushniak also urged new resolve to make the next generation a smoke-free generation.

Most independent pharmacies also do not sell tobacco, according to the National Community Pharmacists Association.

Several cities, including San Francisco and Boston, have considered or passed bans on tobacco sales in stores with pharmacies. Other places like New York City have sought to curb retail displays and promotions and raise the legal age someone can buy tobacco products.

CVS notches about \$1.5 billion annually in tobacco sales, but it expects the \$2 billion drop in revenue from phasing out tobacco because smokers often buy other products when they visit their stores. The company brought in more than \$123 billion in revenue in 2012 and ranks 13th on the 2013 Fortune 500 list of biggest U.S. companies.

CVS Caremark Corp. and other major drugstore chains have been adding clinics to their stores and expanding their health care focus for several years now. They've been preparing, in part, for an aging U.S. population that will need more care and for the millions of people who are expected to gain health insurance coverage under the federal health care overhaul. Their pharmacists deliver flu shots and other immunizations, and their clinics also have been expanding the scope of care they deliver. They now help people manage chronic illnesses like high blood pressure and diabetes in addition to treating minor illnesses like sinus infections.

CVS Caremark has been working to team up with hospital groups and doctor practices to help deliver and monitor patient care, and the presence of tobacco in its stores has made for some awkward conversations, CVS Chief Medical Officer Dr. Troyen A. Brennan said. U.S. retail sales of tobacco, which is comprised largely of cigarettes, were about \$107.7 billion in 2012, according to market researcher Euromonitor International. Less than 4 percent of retail cigarette sales come from drugstores like CVS and Walgreens. □

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Study:

Ten US states eyeing Internet gambling bills

WAYNE PARRY

Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) —

At least 10 U.S. states are considering bills to legalize or expand Internet gambling this year, according to a group that tracks gambling-related legislation worldwide. But the Gambling Compliance survey also finds slim chances for a national law to regulate Internet poker, predicting a major effort by online gambling opponents to block it in Congress.

So far, three states allow Internet gambling: New Jersey, Nevada and Delaware. The report says proposals for new or expanded Internet betting could be considered in California, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

"In 2013, 10 states considered legislation that would legalize online casino-style gambling, which was a historic high," said Chris Krafick, the group's research director. "This year is shaping up to be at least as busy."

In California, one of the largest potential markets, Indian tribes are trying to agree on how to legalize Internet poker. Tribal leaders from two coalitions met last month and said they made progress but still need more time to work out an accord. The report said a bill is likely to be acted upon before an Aug. 31 deadline.

A bill in Mississippi that would have legalized Internet gambling died Tuesday when the state legislature failed to act on it. □

US Financial Front:

American service sector expands on new orders

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. service companies expanded at a slightly faster pace in January. New orders, sales and hiring showed strength in a sign that financial firms, retailers and information technology companies foresee stronger growth.

The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, said Wednesday that its service-sector index rose to 54 from 53 in December. Any reading above 50 indicates expansion.

The improvement points to continued economic gains for the service industry, despite some challenges posed by freezing temperatures and winter storms last month.

The survey covers businesses that employ 90 percent of the U.S. workforce, including retail, construction, health care and financial services firms. Be-



Sliders are sent out from the kitchen at the Green Dot Stables, in Detroit. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, issued its index of non-manufacturing (service-sector) activity for January, on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014.

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

cause these companies are less sensitive to nasty weather than manufacturers are, the January figure suggests that a reported slowdown at factories last month was due in part to the winter chill rather than to broader weakness in the economy.

The services sector has experienced "slow, incremental growth" for the past four years and is on a sustainable path, said Anthony Nieves, chairman of ISM's services survey.

"It's been chugging along very steady," said Nieves, adding that the 4½-year-

old recovery from the Great Recession has been "very resilient even with the ups and downs."

A measure of new orders rose 0.5 points to 50.9. The measure for hiring rose 0.8 points to 56.4, the highest reading since November 2010. □

Survey: US companies add 175K jobs in January

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A private survey shows that businesses added jobs at a modest pace in January, a sign that hiring may have rebounded after a disappointing figure in December.

Payroll processor ADP said Wednesday that companies added 175,000 jobs last month. That's down from 227,000 in December, which was revised lower. But it was much better than the government's official figure of just 74,000 new jobs in December.

The ADP numbers cover

only private businesses and often diverge from the government's more comprehensive report. In December its figure was much higher than the official count.

The job gains in ADP's report, while lower than in December, are in line with average monthly hiring for the past two years.

Fears have risen in recent weeks that the U.S. and global economies may be weakening.

Those fears have caused sharp falls in stock markets worldwide. Turmoil in developing countries and signs of slower growth in the U.S.

have also raised uncertainty about the Federal Reserve's next steps.

Some economists were concerned that ADP's report suggested hiring slowed from December to January.

But others were relieved that the job gains didn't fall further. Other economic data in the past two weeks, such as a survey of manufacturers by the Institute for Supply Management, have suggested the economy is weakening.

"Given the cratering in December payrolls and the poor ISM figures, these data should come as a relief,"

Jay Feldman, an economist at Credit Suisse, said in a note to clients.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, which compiles the ADP report, said that cold weather "continued to weigh on the job numbers."

Excluding the impact of bad weather, hiring is likely occurring at a pace of 175,000 to 200,000 new jobs a month, Zandi said.

"I don't think anything fundamental has changed in the economy," he said. Moody's is still forecasting that hiring will pick up this year and average about 225,000 a month. □

As Minimum Wages Rise, Businesses Grapple With Consequences

Stacy Perman

© 2014 New York Times

Dolores Riley has many questions and few answers. Along with every other employer in New Jersey, she woke up on New Year's Day to a new minimum wage - \$8.25 an hour, up from \$7.25. Even before the increase, Riley, who owns Gramma's School House Childcare and Learning Center in Cinnaminson, had been operating on the razor's edge.

Since 2008, the number of children her company cares for has dropped to 40 from 75, reducing her annual revenue to \$350,000 from \$600,000 and forcing her to cut her own salary 75 percent. In business since 2000, Riley said she paid all of her 16 employees more than minimum wage - her lowest-paid workers make \$7.75, the highest \$15 - but she fears that increasing the minimum will force her to raise everybody's pay to maintain her structure.

The latest increase, she said, is likely to add \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year to payroll costs that already make up nearly 80 percent of her operating expenses. "This really scares me," she said. "I hope I don't have to close."

On Jan. 1, 13 states raised their minimum wage, and an additional 22 and the federal government are expected to consider increases this year as well. President Barack Obama is backing a bill to raise the \$7.25 federal minimum to \$10.10 an hour, to be put into effect in three stages, with annual adjustments indexed to inflation. And in his State of the Union address, the president said he would raise the minimum paid to federal contractors by executive order.

There is widespread disagreement about the impact of the increases. Paul Ballew, chief economist at Dun & Bradstreet, says small businesses are a diverse universe, with some more sensitive to policy changes than others.

That said, he added: "There remains a lot of economic pressure on small businesses. The downturn was

so severe, and any time you have a policy change, you are going to get push-back. They've had a really rough go of it the past six years, and they've already squeezed out a lot of the fat."

Others point out that the proposed increases barely keep up with inflation. The current federal minimum of \$7.25, when adjusted for inflation, is about 23 percent lower than it was in 1968. In addition, the increases do not reflect an evolving labor landscape in which the number of minimum-

child, to \$255 from \$225, to cover the increased wages. That, she said, would cause many of her clients to withdraw their children and rely instead on less expensive (and unregulated) baby sitters.

Like Riley, Charlene Conway is watching her numbers. For 22 years, Conway and her husband have run Carousel Family Fun Centers in Fairhaven and Whitman, Mass. The business has annual revenue of less than \$500,000 and depends exclusively on part-time minimum-wage

And she, too, is reluctant to raise prices again. In 2011 and 2012, she increased her admission fees by a dollar - they generally run from \$5 to \$10 now, based on age and time of day. Another increase, she said, would just make things worse: "We will price ourselves out of business."

In the past, when Massachusetts increased the state's minimum, Conway responded by increasing the minimum age of her workers to 16 from 14. "I'm not going to pay a 14-year-old \$9 an hour with no ex-

a political issue and with some studies challenging the notion that minimum-wage increases damage small businesses, there are also business owners who support the increases. These owners suggest that businesses actually benefit from paying higher wages because of reduced turnover and the additional money that goes into local economies.

Amanda Rothschild, co-owner of Charmington's, a cafe in Baltimore, calls the arguments against raising the minimum "shortsight-



Dolores Riley at her day care business, Gramma's School House Childcare and Learning Center, in Cinnaminson, N.J., Jan. 27, 2014. Riley had already cut her own salary drastically due to dropping enrollment, and worries that increased employee costs from the new minimum wage for the state -- up one dollar to \$8.25 an hour -- could force her to close.

(Laura Pedrick/The New York Times)

wage earners who work full time has increased substantially, prompting some to ask, Is there never a time when the minimum could be raised without objection? And if a business cannot afford to pay minimum wage, might it be doing something wrong?

Riley said her options were limited. She has already laid off nine employees in recent years. Having raised her rates two years ago, by \$5 an hour, she is reluctant to do so again - especially since it would take an increase of \$30 a week per

earners, mostly teenagers, to handle tasks like running the snack bar and maintaining the games.

This year, Massachusetts is considering raising its minimum to \$9 an hour, from \$8. Should that happen, Conway said, she will probably need to reduce her staff of 20.

Her employees currently make an average of \$9 an hour, with managers earning from \$10 to \$15. Like Riley, Conway said that an increase in the minimum would force her to raise pay across the board.

perience, maturity or work ethic," she said. More recently, she has been hiring 18-year-olds with college experience.

"What this does," she said, "is eliminate the opportunity for young people to get started in the workforce." Should minimum wage reach \$10 an hour, Conway said she would reduce her staff to 10 employees and double up on work tasks. "This is a slippery slope that could absolutely cause me to shut down and force me into bankruptcy," she said. But with income equality

ed." Since opening in 2010, the cafe has paid new hires \$8 an hour, more than the current \$7.25 minimum (they also earn tips).

"I think those against increases underestimate how business success is tied to employee satisfaction," said Rothschild, who employs 11 people full time and three part time. She said her employees were part of the reason her cafe's revenue increased to \$600,876 last year, up 31 percent from \$457,940 in 2012. She expects another increase this year. □

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Euro envoy: Ukraine crisis far from over

JIM HEINTZ

Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — The threat of new protest violence in Ukraine is tapering off but the country's two-month-old political and economic crisis remains far from being resolved, the European Union's foreign policy chief said Wednesday. EU envoy Catherine Ashton spoke after meeting with President Viktor Yanukovich, who has been the focus of months of massive protests demanding his resignation. The protesters have built a large tent camp in the central square of Kiev, the capital, and have erected high barricades of snow and scrap materials to cut off key downtown sections. An uneasy truce between police and protesters has held since late January after the protests erupted into four days of violent clashes. Officials say three people died in the melee, two of them of gunshot wounds. "Although there is a sense that violence is decreasing, there is still great concern about the situation on the ground," Ashton told reporters. She said 28-nation EU has been discussing financial aid to Ukraine, but dismissed suggestions floated by some opposition leaders that the country deserves something akin to the Marshall Plan, the successful U.S. initiative to rebuild European economies after World War II. The perilous state of Ukraine's economy, which relies on energy-inefficient heavy industries and gas imports from Russia, is a key issue in the crisis. □

Bombs rock Iraqi capital, killing at least 34

SAMEER N. YACOB

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Multiple explosions rocked Baghdad on Wednesday, killing at least 34 people and sending plumes of smoke into the sky across the street from a major government building in a brazen reminder of the ability of insurgents to penetrate the heart of the capital. The attacks come as al-Qaida-led militants are battling for control of main-

Two parked car bombs went off simultaneously in different parking lots, killing at least 12 people, including three policemen, and wounding 22, a police officer said.

Shortly afterward, a suicide bomber blew himself up in a nearby falafel restaurant frequented by officials or visitors waiting for security escorts to take them inside the Green Zone, a walled-off area that houses the prime minister's office and

in central Baghdad, killing five people and wounding 11, another police officer said. Security forces sealed off the area as firefighters struggled to put out the blaze ignited by the bombing. Smoke billowed from several stores and stalls as vendors hurriedly stuffed their goods into big bags and carried them away on their backs.

Shortly before sunset, a triple car bombing struck an outdoor market in the

rity forces and Shiites are typically carried out by al-Qaida's affiliate in Iraq. In August 2009, the group claimed responsibility for massive suicide attacks on the Foreign Ministry as well as the Finance Ministry that killed more than 100 people.

The network now known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant has been emboldened by the successes of its fellow militants in the civil war next door in Syria and by widespread Sunni anger at the government in Baghdad.

A bomb went off later inside a cafe in the mainly Sunni neighborhood of Dora, killing two people and wounding six, officials said. It was unclear who was responsible for that attack. Sunni insurgents frequently target rivals within the community who have allied with the government. Shiite extremists also sometimes plant bombs in Sunni areas, raising fears of a new wave of retaliatory violence that pushed the country to the brink of civil war in the years following the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein.

Medical officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to media.

Iraqi Interior Ministry spokesman Saad Maan Ibrahim said the recent attacks in Baghdad represent "a futile reaction by the terrorist groups toward the defeats they are suffering at the hands of the security forces in the western Anbar province." □



Civilians inspect the site after a parked car bomb went off at a commercial center in Khilani Square in central Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014. Multiple bombings rocked central Baghdad on Wednesday, striking mainly near the heavily fortified Green Zone where key government offices are located and killing at least 16 people, Iraqi officials said.

(AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

ly Sunni areas to the west in the first test of the Shiite-led government to maintain security in the country more than two years after the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

The deadliest of Wednesday's attacks took place across the street from the high-rise building housing the Foreign Ministry, shattering the windows of nearby apartment buildings.

the U.S. and other foreign embassies.

Five people were killed and 12 wounded in that attack, the officer said.

All the roads leading to the blast sites place were sealed off by police as workers cleared debris and washed away bloodstains from the sidewalks.

Another parked car bomb exploded in Khilani Square, a busy commercial area

mainly Shiite suburb of Jisr Diyala in southeastern Baghdad, killing nine people and wounding 24. Minutes later, a rocket landed near the western gate of the green zone, killing one passer-by and wounding seven others, police said.

Nobody claimed responsibility for the attacks, but car bombings and suicide attacks targeting government buildings, secu-

Panama Canal expansion stops amid dispute over cost overrun

**JOSHUA GOODMAN
JUAN ZAMORANO**
Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Work on the ambitious Panama Canal expansion project was halted Wednesday after talks broke down on how to settle a dispute over \$1.6 billion in cost overruns.

Panama Canal Authority Administrator Jorge Quijano told a news conference the stoppage will give authorities time to analyze how to proceed on the project to widen the canal.

"I don't even want to suggest that the next steps will be easy or risk-free," a visibly angered Quijano told reporters in Panama.

"What I do want to make clear is that we will not yield to blackmail."

The Panama Canal Authority and the Spanish-led construction consortium leading the expansion blame each other for the overruns. They were negotiating how to pay for the unplanned extra costs when talks broke down.

An agreement "is now no longer possible," Quijano said, adding that the consortium had ordered its employees to stop work.

Other foreign contractors and project managers have expressed an interest in completing the 30 percent of work that remains on the third canal lock, according to canal officials, but Quijano declined to provide details about its plan B except to say that under no circumstances would a 2015 deadline to complete construction be pushed back.

"They are leaving and we are staying. The project is going to be finished. It must go ahead with or without them," Quijano said.

The consortium, which is led by Spain's Sacyr SA and includes firms from Italy and Belgium, says that 10,000 jobs are immediately at risk. In a strongly worded statement on Wednesday, it said Panama's failure to resolve the impasse threatens to overshadow a summit of 34 hemispheric leaders, including US President Barack Obama, which the Central American nation will host next year.

"Instead of celebrating Panama's vital role in global commerce, leaders will be regretting that the ACP and Panama have abandoned negotiations," the statement said, referring to the canal authority by its Spanish initials.

In Europe, the EU's Industry Commissioner Antonio Tajani said news of the work stoppage was "unexpected" after Panama's President Ricardo Martinelli had made a statement on Tuesday indicating that the parties were close to an agreement.

"I trust and hope that the parties reconsider their positions in the coming days," said Tajani, an Italian whom the European members of the consortium had asked to intervene in the dispute.

"Interruption of the work would be bad news for employment, for the worldwide economy, for the expansion of the canal and for the parties themselves."

Martinelli called on Panamanians to close ranks behind the canal authority, whose autonomy is guaranteed by the constitution, accusing the consortium of acting irresponsibly.

"We're going to finish the canal whether it rains, thunders or there's lightning," the billionaire president told reporters on Wednesday.

The project, which is already running nine months late, would double the capacity of the 50-mile (80-kilometer) canal, which carries 5 to 6 percent of world commerce. □

Pope pressured to act after UN rebuke

NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis came under new pressure Wednesday to punish bishops who covered up for pedophile priests when a U.N. human rights panel accused the

decades with impunity.

Among other things, the panel called on the Vatican to immediately remove all priests known or suspected to be child molesters, open its archives on abusers and the bishops who covered up for them,

See has not acknowledged the extent of the crimes committed, has not taken the necessary measures to address cases of child sexual abuse and to protect children, and has adopted policies and practices which have led



Kirsten Sandberg, center, chairperson of the U.N. human rights committee on the rights of the child, talks to committee members Maria Herczog, right, and Benyam Mezmur during a press conference at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014. A U.N. human rights committee denounced the Vatican on Wednesday for adopting policies that allowed priests to rape and molest tens of thousands of children over decades, and urged it to open its files on the pedophiles and the churchmen who concealed their crimes.

(AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

Vatican of systematically protecting its reputation instead of looking out for the safety of children.

In a scathing report that thrilled victims and stunned the Vatican, the United Nations committee said the Holy See maintained a "code of silence" that enabled priests to sexually abuse tens of thousands of children worldwide over

and turn the abuse cases over to law enforcement authorities for investigation and prosecution.

The committee largely brushed aside the Vatican's claims that it has already instituted new safeguards, and it accused the Roman Catholic Church of still harboring criminals.

"The committee is gravely concerned that the Holy

to the continuation of the abuse by, and the impunity of, the perpetrators," the panel said.

The stinging language surprised the Vatican and put it in damage-control mode, with officials strongly defending the church and accusing the committee of allowing itself to be swayed by pro-gay ideologues. □

Russia:

Railcar inferno on Trans-Siberian Railway

MOSCOW (AP) — Several dozen railway cars carrying gas exploded into fireballs in Russia on Wednesday, suspending traffic on the Trans-Siberian Railway and prompting evacuations from nearby buildings, emergency officials said. No injuries were reported.

The crash occurred at a railway station in Kirov, about 800 kilometers (some 500 miles) northeast of Mos-

cow, when 32 railcars loaded with gas condensate derailed and caught fire.

The inferno engulfed a large area around the station, forcing the evacuation of about 700 residents from several nearby apartment buildings, the Emergency Situations Ministry said. Several hundred emergency workers fought the blaze. An investigation into the derailment has

been opened.

There were reports that some of the gas leaked into a nearby river, and a photo provided by the ministry shows a line of flames on part of the river. But local emergency ministry chief Mikhail Likhachev said there was no threat to the environment and no gas spilled into the water, according to Russian news agencies. □

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South Africans burn buildings to protest high utilities

C. TORCHIA

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

Protesters used children as "human shields" during an attempt to burn down a police station and municipal offices, the South African government said Wednesday, reacting to escalating violence by residents of poor townships who complain that state services are inadequate or expensive.

Separately, a protester was fatally shot and another was injured in a clash between two groups of protesters in Sebokeng, south of Johannesburg, police said.

Demonstrators blocked roads with rocks and burning fires during a protest over plans by the provincial housing authority for a development in the area, said local mayor Greta Hlongwane, according to the South African Press Association.

The upheaval follows a surge in protests in communities in other parts of the country where the state struggles to deliver services,

challenging the ruling African National Congress party ahead of elections this year, the 20th anniversary of the end of white minority rule. Police responded to some violent protests with deadly gunfire, drawing criticism from human rights activists who say a culture of lawlessness has taken root among some segments of the police.

Police in Gauteng, South Africa's most populous province, have dealt with 569 protest marches in the last three months, Lt. Gen. Lesetja Mothiba, the province's acting police commissioner, told the South African news agency. He said 122 of the protests were violent and he urged the public not to be "arm-chair critics" of a severely strained police force.

Demonstrators set several buildings, including a clinic, on fire on Wednesday in the Bronkhorstspuit district, east of the capital, Pretoria, to protest what they say are high utility bills. There were no reported injuries. Several dozen people were arrested in another violent

protest in the area a day earlier. Last week, demonstrators there set a police station and other public facilities on fire.

The government referred to "a trend of using chil-

who wanted to burn down a police station and other municipal offices in Bronkhorstspuit. The use of children in such protests puts their education opportunities at risk, said Phumla Wil-

that may hinder children's development, potentially leading to lifelong psychological damage," Williams said in a statement. "We, therefore, urge parents who involve children in



Residents set alight tyres as they protest in Ekangala, near Pretoria, South Africa, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014. Demonstrators set several buildings, including a clinic, on fire on Wednesday in the Bronkhorstspuit district, east of the capital, Pretoria, to protest what they say are high electricity prices. (AP Photo/Themba Hadebe)

dren as human shields during protests," citing an incident in which a group of teenagers led protesters

liams, a senior government spokeswoman.

"This is a violation of fundamental human rights

destroying public property and committing violence during protest to refrain from such behavior."□

9 die in fire destroying Argentine bank archives

MICHAEL WARREN

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — Nine first-responders were killed and seven others injured as they battled a fire of unknown origin that destroyed an archive of corporate and banking industry documents in Argentina's capital on Wednesday. The fire at the Iron Mountain warehouse took hours to control and at least half of the sprawling building was ruined despite the efforts of at least 10 squads of firefighters.

The nine firefighters and

civil defense workers were crushed when a brick wall collapsed on top of a large group of first-responders on the sidewalk and street outside. Tearful rescuers removed rubble by hand to reach their comrades.

"It took them completely by surprise," said Argentina's Security Secretary Sergio Berni said. "Some of the injured are fighting for their lives."

Berni said Iron Mountain also had employees inside the building when the fire started early Wednesday, but all the employees and

firefighters were accounted for by early afternoon.

The destroyed archives included documents stored for Argentine corporations and banks, said Buenos Aires security minister Guillermo Montenegro.

The cause wasn't immediately clear. Berni said the company's on-site firefighters shared some details with authorities, and Iron Mountain said it too will investigate.

"All of this will end up in court," Berni said, declining to make any details public. If the cause is found to be

arson, it wouldn't be the first time for Boston-based Iron Mountain Inc., which manages, stores and protects information for more than 156,000 companies and organizations in 36 countries. Fire investigators blamed arson for blazes that destroyed its warehouses in New Jersey in 1997 and London in 2006, prompting rounds of legal claims over lost records.

Iron Mountain issued a statement saying "we are deeply saddened by the deaths of the brave first responders who rushed

to save our facility. Our thoughts are also with those who have been hospitalized, and we wish them a quick and complete recovery."

"We will investigate the cause of the fire and work closely with local investigators, police and fire authorities to understand what happened. The building was equipped with both fire-detection as well as a sprinkler system," the company said, adding that it is contacting its customers whose documents were lost.□

Red Light Secrets Museum opens in Amsterdam

TOBY STERLING
Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — On any given evening, thousands of tourists stroll down the narrow canal-side streets of Amsterdam's famed Red Light District, gawking at ladies in lingerie who work behind windows, making a living selling sex for money. Now a small educational museum is opening Thursday in the heart of the district to show reality from the

ning over to their windows with coffee or food during shifts.

Prostitutes rent windows on a half-day basis and can work shifts that are 11 hours long, six days a week. They spend a lot of time waiting for customers. In their free time, they visit local hairdressers, nail salons and clothing shops. There's also a nursery school in the heart of the Red Light District, right next to the windows. In

soldiers.

The museum focuses on the era since 2000, when prostitution became legal in the Netherlands. Since then the city has been struggling — it says with some success — to eradicate pimps and human trafficking.

Yolanda van Doevert, who manages the city's prostitution social programs, says the district is regulated by police officers, social workers, health

challenge for police.

IN THE WINDOW

At the museum, the tour resumes: In one hallway, there's a work roster on a white board showing who's working in which room on what days, along with times for client appointments. There's also a chance to take a seat in an actual window in front of passers-by.

And then the tour proceeds to a typical "pees-

Are married men the main customers? No, you can't generalize, Stakelborough says. Men of all types, married, unmarried, young or old visit prostitutes at all hours, she says — some even on their way to work in the morning.

How do you know who's just coming to look and who wants to do business? "Eye contact," she said.

THE PROSTITUTES

Very few women who work as prostitutes ever earn more than a middle class income at best — and usually it's worse, according to Stakelborough and Van Doevert.

Stakelborough says it's not the prettiest or youngest girls who get the most customers or earn the most. And escorts and high-end brothel prostitutes don't necessarily do better — they have fewer customers, longer sessions and lots of costs, for taxis or splitting profits with brothel owners, she said.

A window typically rents for 150 euros (\$202) for a half-day. Given the standard cost of about 50 euros (\$70) for a 15-minute session, their take-home pay before taxes is only 150 euros after seeing six clients, or 250 euros (\$338) after eight.

Approximately 75 percent of the women are from poorer countries, often Romania or Bulgaria.

"Almost all the women who are here are here 'voluntarily', in the sense that they come knowing what they're going to do," van Doevert says. "But you can ask yourself what their other options were." At the end of the museum there's a wall of quotes from prostitutes. "This job is not for the faint-hearted," wrote Eva from Holland. "I have become much harder."

"It makes me feel lonely my mother doesn't know what I do," wrote Carmen from Romania.

Visitors can write down their own sexual secrets in a mock-up confessional booth before heading back out onto the street. □



The entrance of the 'Red Light Secrets' prostitution museum is seen, center, in Amsterdam.

other side of the glass.

RED LIGHT SECRETS

Organizer Melcher de Wind says the Red Light Secrets museum is for those who want to learn more about how the area works without actually visiting a prostitute. It's located in a former brothel, one of the narrow buildings typical of Amsterdam.

Visitors enter the museum by passing a hologram of a beckoning prostitute. Then the displays attempt to place prostitutes as part of society. There's a short film showing the many people who work with the prostitutes: cleaning or repairing their rooms, doing their laundry, or run-

one scene in the film, a middle-aged prostitute in red leather receives an afternoon visit from her grade-school daughter.

A LONG HISTORY

The museum makes only a passing attempt to document the history of prostitution tolerance in Amsterdam — starting from the 16th century, when it was a port city flush with wealth from the spice trade and authorities turned a blind eye when sailors went ashore looking for women. Or during the Napoleonic Wars, when prostitutes first began to have mandatory medical checkups to combat venereal disease among

workers, tax authorities and civil rights groups. A new girl who appears in a window will be noticed in a matter of hours and must be able to show that she's old enough and has approval to work.

The legal age to work as a prostitute in Amsterdam has recently been raised from 18 to 21.

Van Doevert says trafficking remains at the heart of the Dutch debate over the ethics of prostitution. There's also an acknowledgement, however, that the worst abuses of underage girls or prostitutes being exploited by pimps now take place out of sight in underground brothels — an ongoing

(AP Photo/Evert Elzinga)

kamer," Dutch for "work-room."

Ilonka Stakelborough, an escort who heads a sex-workers union called "the Geisha Institute," says the rooms, about nine feet long and six feet wide (3x2 meters) have a standardized look that could really use an update — black lights have been nearly universal since the 1970s. The beds are low and strong, near a sink and a small cabinet of lubricants, cleansers, condoms and sex toys. "No perfume," Stakelborough says. "Because then the smell rubs off on a man's clothes and he has problems with his wife when he gets home."



At Amazonia Churrascaria:

Press members enjoy the hospitality of Sushi Salsa



PALM BEACH - Not just one, but two Brazilian traditions entertained press members at the all new Sushi Salsa at Amazonia Churrascaria, as they discovered the Island's most unique dining experience, savoring the Art of Sushi, feasting on two giant trays filled with top grade fresh catch, prepared by an expertly trained master chef, in plain view of their cameras. The energy and spirit of Sushi Samba's menu is also reflected in the spec-

tacular décor with painting and prints by famous local artist Eliza Lejuez, and the sound of the latest Brazilian music. Julie Heward-Geerman, Sales & Marketing Coordinator and Raymond Talbot, Restaurant Manager welcomed press members at the red carpet for an appreciation afternoon of Sushi & Meat, as Amazonia Churrascaria now follows a global trend of pairing the two dining styles, now successfully co-

habitating under one roof, offering patrons the opportunity to enjoy their beef AND their tuna served exactly to their liking. The bar room of Amazonia Churrascaria has been completely transformed and to host Sushi Salsa featuring appetizers such as Miso Soup and Shrimp Tempura, cold dishes such as Tuna Tataki and Salsa Salad house specialty, Rolls and Hand Rolls, as well as a number of signature rolls with Rain-

bow, Dragon, Amazonia & Guarana among them. The culinary repertoire of Sushi Salsa now includes more than fifteen types of tender Sushi or Sashimi, listing all favorites among them. Special thanks to Arion Wine Company for the delicious wine selection, complementing the cuisine and setting a festive tone to the gathering, pouring Wente River Bank Riesling, Wente Louis Mel Sauvignon Blanc, Nederburg Cabernet Sau-

vignon and Kobai Plum Wine. Press members also enjoy Sake Bombs, beer cocktails made by pouring sake into a shot glass and dropping it into a glass of beer. As seen in our pictures, press members agree that with equal parts of imagination and freshness, the Amazonia & Sushi Salsa experience is truly unique, and in view of the upcoming Valentine's day an excellent and exciting dinner option. □



Residential Community Gold Coast Delivers Wow Factor



and babysitting services. Marketing efforts of the Gold Coast residential community were also en-

in rental business of their condos, townhouses and villas. In addition the occupancy at the rental homes

- 200% Rental Increase, Brand New Website, Expanded Services

WEST PUNT - Gold Coast, Aruba's newest resort-style residential community in Malmok, is on the move and making a positive mark with enhanced guest services, increased bookings of their rental homes and the recent launch of a brand new website. Guests of Gold Coast now have the option to choose from a wide variety of spe-

cial requests and services, in addition to housekeeping and laundry services. Prior to their arrival all Gold Coast guests can arrange for services that will definitely deliver a wow factor and provide for an extraordinary stay in Aruba. These new services include pre arrival grocery shopping, the request for an In-house chef, server, bartender or butler, personal laundry, in-house massage, a personal trainer, Spa treatments



Beauty On The Beach

Katie Howard

She is from Cleveland, Ohio, and it's her first time in Aruba. She loves the Beach and the local people. She is staying at the Radisson Beach Resort.

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hanced with the recent launch of a brand new website: www.arubarentalsvacation.com. Functionalities of this new website include a chat room where guests can immediately reach out with their questions to a Front Office staff member of Gold Coast. The website also features an easy-to-use booking engine for direct bookings of the Gold Coast condos, townhouses and spacious villas. Lastly, Gold Coast shares its results of the third quarter of 2013. Compared to the same time last year results show a 200% increase

in this residential community also increased by 200% compared to the third quarter of 2012. Construction activities are still ongoing at Gold Coast and it is to be expected that their magnificent growth will be doubled again next year. Future expansion includes the construction of a Gold Coast Clubhouse. This multi-purpose Clubhouse will feature 2 tennis courts and large community pool, a convenience store, business center, restaurant, Spa and state of the art Fitness Center. The Gold Coast Clubhouse is to be completed in 2014. □



Mrs. Patricia Smith honored by ATA at the Costa Linda Beach Resort



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very special Lady who is a loyal and friendly Visitor of Aruba, at the Costa Linda, as Ambassador of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20 or more consecutive years. The honoree was Mrs. Patricia Smith from North Royalton, Ohio. Mrs. Smith has been visiting Aruba for over 30 consecutive



years, first time she and her late husband Mr. Richard Smith and daughters Sue and Sandy came to Aruba was in 1977, since then the Smith family has continuously visit Aruba for years after years. Mr. Ernest Giel from The Aruba Tourism Authority, who conducted the honoring ceremony, knows the Smith family himself since 1977, when he used to work at the King International Casino at the Holiday Inn.

Now the family Smith is much bigger with Sue and Sandy's husbands and children and Mrs. Smith is also bringing to Aruba now her great granddaughter, and they are all enjoying their nice vacation at their home away from home the Costa Linda Beach Resort. Mr. Ernest Giel presented Mrs. Patricia Smith the Ambassador of Goodwill certificate together with a very nice painting from a local artist Mr. Elvis Tromp, also present during



the ceremony were family members of Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Gloria Janga and

Mrs. Miriam Rodriguez representing the Costa Linda Beach Resort. □

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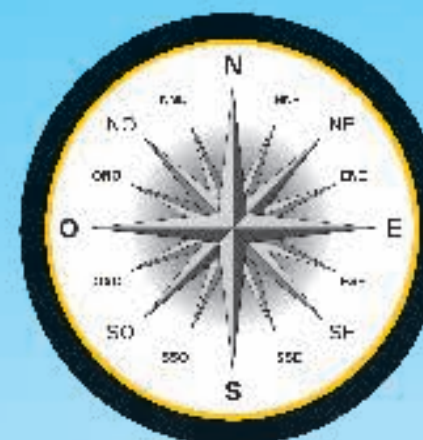
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2. DUFY





Shaun White nixes Olympic slopestyle

EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia (AP) — Shaun White jammed his wrist on one jump and watched the world's best snowboarders join him in tumbling down the supersized, super-scary Olympic slopestyle course. Quickly, his choice became clear: Time to step away from the danger, and give himself a better chance in the event he knows he can win.

The world's most famous snowboarder pulled out of the new Olympic event Wednesday, saying that after much deliberation, he has decided to bypass a chance at winning two gold medals at these games and instead concentrate on the halfpipe, where he'll have a chance to win his third straight title next week.



In this Feb. 17, 2010, file photo, Shaun White of the United States celebrates his gold medal in the men's snowboard halfpipe at Cypress Mountain in West Vancouver, British Columbia, at the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games.

Continued on page 21

Associated Press



Boston Bruins right wing Jarome Iginla (12) dumps Vancouver Canucks left wing David Booth (7) to the ice during the third period of an NHL hockey game in Boston on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014. The Bruins won 3-1.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Jarome Iginla and Milan Lucic each had a goal and an assist for the Boston Bruins in a 3-1 win Tuesday night

over the slumping Vancouver Canucks, who lost their fifth straight.

Daniel Paille also scored for Boston and Tuukka Rask made 27 saves against the

NHL Capsules

Iginla, Lucic lead Bruins to 3-1 win over Canucks

road-weary Canucks, who were coming off 2-0 loss in Detroit the night before.

Zdeno Chara and Johnny Boychuk added assists as Boston won for the sixth time in seven games.

Roberto Luongo stopped 29 shots for Vancouver, which played its second game since coach John Tortorella came back from a 15-day suspension. His return hasn't halted Vancouver's slide — the Canucks lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Raphael Diaz pulled Vancouver to 2-1 in the second period, one day after com-

ing over from Montreal in a trade.

RANGERS 5, AVALANCHE 1 NEW YORK (AP) — Rangers captain Ryan Callahan shook off trade talk and scored two first-period goals to lead New York past Colorado for its fourth straight win.

With Callahan's future with the Rangers unsettled just before he heads to the Sochi Olympics, he staked New York to a 2-0 lead with goals 3:19 apart. Defenseman Anton Stralman added his first of the season in the second period, and Derick Brassard and Brad

Richards scored in the third — with an assist from Callahan — in the Rangers' 10th win in 13 games.

Henrik Lundqvist made 27 saves for his 297th win, four shy of Mike Richter's club record.

Gabriel Landeskog, Lundqvist's teammate with Sweden in the Olympics, scored in the second, and Russian Olympian Semyon Varlamov stopped 38 shots, but the Avalanche had a four-game winning streak snapped.

Continued on page 20

Curt Schilling announces he has cancer



Former Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling looks on after being introduced as a new member of the Boston Red Sox Hall of Fame before the baseball game between the Boston Red Sox and the Minnesota Twins at Fenway Park in Boston Friday, Aug. 3, 2012.

Associated Press

By PAT EATON-ROBB

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) -- Former star pitcher turned television analyst Curt Schilling announced Wednesday that he is battling cancer.

The 47-year-old Schilling, who spent 20 years in the major leagues before retiring in 2009, divulged the news in a statement released through his employer, Bristol-based ESPN. It did not indicate what type of cancer Schilling has, when he was diagnosed or what his prognosis might be. "With my incredibly talented medical team I'm ready to try and win another big game," he said. "I've been so very blessed and I feel grateful for what God has allowed my family to have and experience, and I'll embrace this fight just like the rest of them, with resolute faith and head on."

ESPN spokesman Mike Soltys said Schilling is taking a leave of absence. He recently signed a multiyear contract

extension with the network and was to be part of the "Sunday Night Baseball" broadcast team, as well as contribute to the network's studio coverage, including its spring training coverage, Soltys said.

"Our thoughts are with Curt and his family during this challenging time," the Bristol-based network said in a statement. "His ESPN teammates wish him continued strength in his cancer fight and we look forward to welcoming him back to our baseball coverage whenever he's ready".

Schilling played for five teams during his Major League career. He won three world championships, with the Arizona Diamondbacks (2001) and Boston Red Sox (2004, 2007), sharing the World Series MVP award with teammate Randy Johnson in 2001.

He won 216 games and struck out 3,116 batters during his career, but is perhaps best known for pitching in the 2004 ALCS and World Series after

having stitches to mend an ankle injury. His bloody sock was later put on display in Cooperstown.

Schilling has been in the news recently after the failure of 38 Studios, a video game company he owned in Rhode Island, with the help of a \$75 million state loan. The company went bankrupt last year, leaving Rhode Island taxpayers on the hook to pay back tens of millions of dollars.

Schilling said he invested and lost as much as \$50 million.

This is not the first time he and his family have battled health issues.

Schilling recently revealed he suffered a heart attack in November 2011. His wife, Shonda, successfully battled melanoma in 2001.

His daughter, Gabby, took to Twitter Wednesday to ask for prayers for her father.

"So i guess the word is out, if everyone could just keep my dad and family in their prayers it would mean a lot!" she wrote. □

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NBA Capsules

Love, Timberwolves hand Lakers 7th straight loss

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kevin Love had 31 points and 17 rebounds for Minnesota, spoiling Steve Nash's return for languishing Los Angeles and leading the Timberwolves to a 109-99 victory Tuesday night that stuck the Lakers with their seventh straight defeat.

Kevin Martin scored 14 of his season-high-tying 32 points in the opening 10 minutes to help the Timberwolves start strong, and the NBA's highest-scoring first-quarter team surged to a 25-point lead midway through the second period.

Nash had been sidelined since Nov. 10 because of nerve problems in his back. The soon-to-be-40-year-old two-time league MVP had seven points and nine assists in 25 minutes, about 10 more than he was supposed to play.

Steve Blake also returned, coming back from a torn ligament in his right elbow that had shelved him since Dec. 10.

He ruptured his eardrum during the game but kept playing on another night of bad luck and bad defense

for the fallen franchise. Blake was scoreless in 31 minutes.

Jodie Meeks (sprained right ankle, first quarter) and backup Jordan Hill (headache and neck strain, first quarter) went down for the Lakers, who have been without star Kobe Bryant for most of the season.

Pau Gasol sat out with a strained right groin and could be out until after the All-Star break.

BULLS 101, SUNS 92

PHOENIX (AP) — Carlos Boozer had 19 points and 12 rebounds, and the Bulls snapped the Suns' five-game winning streak.

The Bulls shot 45 percent from the field and had five players score in double figures, bouncing back from an ugly 99-70 loss at Sacramento on Monday. The Bulls shot 28 percent and were outrebounded 53-30 against the Kings.

One night later, it was a completely different story. Jimmy Butler and D.J. Augustin had 18 points apiece for the Bulls, who won for the fifth straight time in Phoenix. Joakim Noah, who was ejected in the



Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Love, center, is fouled by Los Angeles Lakers' Robert Sacre, right, during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014, in Minneapolis.
Associated Press

third quarter of the loss at Sacramento, had 14 points and 14 rebounds. Goran Dragic led Phoenix

with 24 points. Channing Frye had 18.

PACERS 89, HAWKS 85

ATLANTA (AP) — David

West scored 22 points and Paul George added 18, helping NBA-leading Indiana get the win.

The Pacers snapped a 12-game regular-season losing streak in Atlanta while improving the league's best record to 38-10.

Atlanta failed to place a starter in double figures. It had won two straight and five of seven.

Jeff Teague and Kyle Korver had nine points apiece for the Hawks, but All-Star forward Paul Millsap went 2 for 11 from the field and finished with seven points.

Teague made a 3-pointer to give Atlanta a 41-35 lead with 1:06 left in the second quarter, but the Hawks were outscored 38-16 over the next 17 minutes.

Cartier Martin's 3 cut Indiana's lead to 86-84 with 14.9 seconds left. C.J. Watson and Danny Granger then combined for three free throws to help the Pacers hold on for the win.

BOBCATS 91, WARRIORS 75
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Al Jefferson had 30 points and 13 rebounds and Gerald Henderson added 17 points and eight rebounds for Charlotte in Kemba Walker's much-anticipated return.

Walker finished with seven points, seven assists and six rebounds after missing the last seven games with a sprained left ankle. He played 33 minutes.

The Bobcats went ahead by 18 points late in the third quarter and 22 midway through the fourth. Charlotte, which shot 47.4 percent, held the Warriors to a season-low 31.2 percent shooting.

Stephen Curry had 17 points and 11 assists, Klay Thompson scored 12 and Andrew Bogut grabbed 15 rebounds for the Warriors, who have been held below 38 percent shooting in three of their past four games.

The Bobcats closed out their road trip 3-1 and swept the season against the Warriors. □

NHL Capsules

Continued from page 18

STARS 3, COYOTES 1

GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP) — Antoine Roussel scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period, Kari Lehtonen stopped 26 shots and Dallas beat Phoenix in a key victory for its playoff hopes. Shawn Horcoff also scored and Ryan Garbutt added an empty-netter for the Stars, who won their second straight game and moved within one point of Phoenix and two of Vancouver, which holds the final wild-card spot in the Western Conference.

Antoine Vermette scored his eighth goal in nine games and Mike Smith made 37 saves for the sluggish Coyotes.

WILD 2, LIGHTNING 1

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Darcy Kuemper made 34 saves and Jared Spurgeon had two assists in his return



Colorado Avalanche goalie Semyon Varlamov, right, deflects a shot-on-goal by New York Rangers' Ryan Callahan (24) during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014, in New York. The Rangers won 5-1.
Associated Press

from a 14-game injury absence to help Minnesota defeat Tampa Bay.

Nino Niederreiter and Dany Heatley scored for the Wild, who are 6-3-2 in Kuemper's 11 straight starts — a franchise record for rookie goalies.

Valtteri Filppula scored his

20th of the season for the Lightning, who got a strong showing from goalie Ben Bishop in a losing effort.

JETS 2, HURRICANES 1
RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Chris Thorburn scored the tie-breaking goal with 1:03 remaining to lift Winnipeg over Carolina.

Andrew Ladd also scored for the Jets, who are 9-2-0 since Paul Maurice took over as coach on Jan. 12. Maurice coached 920 games for the Hurricanes franchise during two stints with the team.

Ondrej Pavelec made 28 saves for the Jets.

Riley Nash scored for Carolina, and Anton Khudobin made 25 saves. The Hurricanes went 10-4-0 in January and had won five of six, but their offense sputtered in this tight-checking game.

CANADIENS 2, FLAMES 0
MONTREAL (AP) — Rene Bourque scored in the second period against his former team, and Montreal snapped Calgary's five-game winning streak.

Carey Price made 27 saves in his fourth shutout of the season and second in four games. David Desharnais added an empty-netter for the Canadiens. □

Shaun White

Continued from page 18

"With the practice runs I have taken, even after course modifications and watching fellow athletes get hurt, the potential risk of injury is a bit too much for me to gamble my other Olympics goals on," White said in a statement. The world's most decorated rider in a sport known for its risk-takers, White's decision was a stunner that dealt yet another blow to the still-to-start Sochi Games. They have been wracked by security threats and political dust-ups, along with the loss of at least one other headliner, injured American skier Lindsey Vonn. White isn't leaving, but his departure from an event that was essentially introduced at the Olympics this year to take advantage of his star power certainly can't make the folks at the IOC or NBC too happy. "He's a notable person and he probably would have brought more viewers to slopestyle," said Nick Goepper, an American who competes in the skiing version of the event. IOC spokesman Mark Adams downplayed the idea that the course is too dangerous. "I don't think that's an issue," he said. "A lot of the athletes have said they're very happy, they like the venue." Slopestyle qualifying starts Thursday, the day before the opening ceremony. Snowboarding's newest and most-hyped Olympic event is a judged sport — a speed-packed trip down the mountain, filled with rails, bumps and, most notably, steeply angled jumps that allow riders to flip two, sometimes three times, before landing. White hurt his wrist on one of the takeoff ramps, which were built "kind of obnoxiously tall," according to one top rider, Canadian Mark McMorris. White, who had already hurt his shoulder and ankle in the lead-up to the Olympics, deemed his latest injury — the jammed wrist — as nothing serious and said reports about it were overblown. But he said there remained serious issues with

the slopestyle course. "There are definitely concerns about the course," he said. "It's been interesting to see how it's developed and changed over the past couple days. The big question is if it will continue to change. Because every day, they have riders meetings and they give feedback. Sometimes there's changes, sometimes there's not." Reaction to White's decision came from several corners, not all of it positive. "Mr. White... It's easy to find excuses to pull out of a contest when you think you can't win," said Canadian rider Sebastian Toutant in a tweet that was later deleted. Maybe so, but White certainly wasn't alone in questioning the course. Australian Torah Bright, the defending women's halfpipe champion who is trying to compete in three events this year — halfpipe, slopestyle and a racer's version called snowboard-cross — also described an overly treacherous few days of training. "We're here as the world's best snowboarders," she told The Associated Press. "Too bad we don't have a world-class course. The craftsmanship doesn't match the world-class athletes that are here." Out of slopestyle, White will now focus solely on next Tuesday's contest in the halfpipe, which is essentially a hollowed-out ice shell with 22-foot (7-meter) sidewalls. There is danger there, but unlike slopestyle, it's based mostly on the types of head-over-heels tricks the riders try and not the setup of the pipe. In a news conference about an hour before he gave first word of his decision to the "Today" show, White was asked whether halfpipe was more important to him. "For me, I definitely feel the halfpipe carries a bit more weight, a bit more pressure. I guess that's fair enough to say," he said. He is favored to become the first male American to win three straight golds in the Winter Games. His prospects for slopestyle, on the other hand,

were uncertain. He's the five-time Winter X Games champion, though he more or less gave up the event about five years ago to focus solely on the halfpipe. He hurt his ankle on the halfpipe in the season's first Olympic qualifier, then bashed his shoulder during a nasty fall in slopestyle about a month later. He pulled out of events, changed his mind a few times about the X Games — considered the biggest snowboarding event outside of the Olympics — before skipping that, as well. In all, it has been a hectic lead-up period as he tried to deal with both events, and it didn't stop once he reached Russia. The slopestyle final is set for Saturday, which would cost him the first day of practice on the halfpipe. "It's tough juggling both events," White said. "Definitely not easy. It's something that's been talked about quite a bit. Losing a day of practice is a serious thing, especially with a new course and the challenges I'd face in slopestyle." He said watching the injuries pile up on the course didn't build much confidence. There were dozens of other less-serious flips and spills. Many riders said the dangers of the course were being overblown — "There's no way this course is too dangerous," American Sage Kotsenburg insisted. But White and Bright are not alone in criticizing the setup. "It's a little intense, a little challenging," said American rider Jamie Anderson, a gold-medal favorite on the women's side. "The jumps are still a little weird. I'm having a questionable time getting used to them." While the other riders might breathe a little easier knowing one of their main competitors is out of the way, White understands his place in the sport and the gravity of his decision. "Not one I take lightly," he said. "I know how much effort everyone has put into holding the slopestyle event for the first time in Olympic history — a history I had planned on being part of." □



Shaun White of the United States takes a jump during a Snowboard Slopestyle training session at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park, prior to the 2014 Winter Olympics, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

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FRI 4:15 | 5:15 | 6:25 | 7:30 | 8:40 | 9:45 | 10:55
SAT 2:05 | 3:00 | 4:15 | 5:15 | 6:25 | 7:30 | 8:40 | 9:45 | 10:55
SUN & HOL 2:05 | 3:00 | 4:15 | 5:15 | 6:25 | 7:30 | 8:40

GEORGE CLOONEY | MATT DAMON
THE MONUMENTS MEN
MON - THURS 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20
FRI 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20
SAT 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20
SUN & HOL 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20

AARON ECKHART | YVONNE STRAHOVSKI
I, FRANKENSTEIN
3D VERSION
MON - THURS 5:00 | 7:10 | 9:25
FRI 5:00 | 7:10 | 9:25 | 11:40
SAT 2:50 | 5:00 | 7:10 | 9:25 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:00 | 7:10 | 9:25

ALLISON MILLER | ZACH GILFORD
DEVIL'S DUE
MON - THURS 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35
FRI 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SAT 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35

KELLAN LUTZ | GAIA WEISS
THE LEGEND OF HERCULES
3D VERSION
MON - THURS 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30
FRI 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30

KATE WINSLET | JOSH BROLIN
Labor Day
MON - THURS 8:50
FRI 8:50 | 11:20
SAT 8:50 | 11:20
SUN & HOL 8:50

CHRIS PINE | KEVIN COSTNER
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT
MON - THURS 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30
FRI 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30 | 11:55
SAT 2:15 | 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 2:15 | 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30

WILL ARNETT | BRENDAN FRASER
THE NUT JOB
MON - THURS 4:40 | 6:45
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Pacquiao, Bradley both seek redemption in rematch

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, California

(AP) — Manny Pacquiao and Timothy Bradley intend to leave no doubt this time. Nearly two years after Bradley beat the Filipino congressman in a hotly disputed split decision, the welterweights both seemed uncommonly confident Tuesday as they began promotional work for their April 12 rematch. That's because each man is still unshakably certain he won their first meeting.

"I want to maintain my name at the top and prove I can still fight," Pacquiao said. "My career is not done yet."

The June 2012 decision was savaged by fans, media and even Bob Arum, both fighters' promoter. They all believed Pacquiao's power and combinations had beaten Bradley's elusiveness and tactical approach. Bradley (31-0, 12 KOs) still feels wronged by the reactions to the biggest win of his life, ranging from catcalls on the street to death threats in the mail. "With all the controversy, this fight is about redemption," Bradley said. "I want to redeem what I didn't get, which is the credit. It's



From left, trainer Freddie Roach and Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, and Tim Bradley and his trainer Joel Diaz pose at a news conference to promote their upcoming WBO welterweight championship boxing rematch, Pacquiao Bradley 2, in Beverly Hills, Calif., Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014.

Associated Press

important for me to make the win decisive in the people's eyes this time. I've already got a win. This is so I can walk down the street and nobody says, 'Hey, you didn't win that fight, man.' That hurts me."

Pacquiao (55-5-2, 38 KOs) and trainer Freddie Roach both believe Pacquiao won essentially every round in the first bout. But the Pac-

man still wants to prove he's back on top of his game by avenging the loss that snapped his 15-fight winning streak.

"I'm not angry anymore," Pacquiao said. "I was surprised by the decision, but I'm the kind of person that I respect the decision of the judges." But did Pacquiao agree that Bradley gave him "a boxing lesson,"

in the infamous words of judge Duane Ford?

"I think I gave him a boxing lesson, and the judges gave him that," Pacquiao said with a smile.

Pacquiao and Bradley will meet again for the WBO 147-pound title at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas. Bradley is opening camp in his native Palm Springs area on Monday,

while Pacquiao will train in the Philippines before moving back to Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood in March.

"To be honest, I wasn't as motivated when I was training for our first fight," Pacquiao said. "I guess I didn't take him seriously enough." The split decision was so reviled that the WBO hired five independent judges to re-score the bout on video, and all five favored Pacquiao. The WBO didn't overturn the result, but asked for a rematch — and after both fighters boosted their careers with victories last year, they were ready to do it again. Pacquiao was knocked out by Juan Manuel Marquez a few months after the Bradley bout, and he took nearly a year off before returning to dominate Brandon Rios in Macau. Bradley watched both fights, but wasn't impressed. "He still has all the skill sets," Bradley said. "I just feel like that killer instinct is gone."

Bradley turned himself into one of boxing's biggest names in 2013 with a sensational brawl against Ruslan Provodnikov and a classy decision win over Marquez. □



Former English soccer star David Beckham, third from left, poses with MLS Commissioner Don Garber, left, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, right, and soccer fans with the Southern Legion soccer supporters at a news conference where Beckham announced he will exercise his option to purchase a Major League Soccer expansion team in Miami, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014, in Miami.

Associated Press

STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — David Beckham has exercised his option to purchase a Major

League Soccer expansion team in Miami, and the deal with the former England captain will be finalized when he can secure

Beckham exercises option to buy MLS team in Miami

a financing plan and location for a new stadium.

The latest development in the pursuit of a Miami team was announced by MLS Commissioner Don Garber at a news conference Wednesday. Beckham and Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez also attended.

"Thank you for the warm welcome," Beckham told a crowd of more than 300 people, who attended the news conference at a downtown museum plaza on a sunny, 80-degree morning. "This is an exciting time, and something we're really looking forward to bringing to Miami."

Beckham has scouted pos-

sible stadium sites and is seeking investors to assist with startup costs such as construction and player acquisitions. Among those who might become involved is Beckham's friend and NBA basketball star LeBron James, who has had recent conversations with the retired midfielder about bringing a team to Miami.

"We don't want public funding," Beckham said to applause.

"We will fund the stadium ourselves. We have worked very hard to get to this stage ... we want to create a football club that is the people's football club."

Beckham, looking the part

of a businessman in a suit and tie, said the stadium will be downtown.

Gimenez — who at one point referred to Beckham as "Beckman" — said there's political support for a stadium plan.

The former Manchester United, Real Madrid and Los Angeles Galaxy star has the right to an expansion team at a discount fee of \$25 million. MLS's Miami Fusion played in Fort Lauderdale from 1998-01 before folding because of poor attendances.

The crowd at the news conference included chanting fans, and several dozen photographers who jostled for pictures. □

U.S. cable merger foreshadows Internet TV's rise

RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Charter Communications Inc.'s \$38 billion bid to take over the much-larger Time Warner Cable Inc. is an attempt to future-proof its business by getting its foot in the door of millions more homes wired for Internet service.

As people use more mobile devices, watch more online video and connect everything from thermostats to refrigerators to the Internet, delivering those Internet services will become increasingly valuable.

Gone are the days when one's primary reason for hooking up cable was for TV. Now, it's the Internet, which enables countless online services known collectively as the cloud — everything from movies on Netflix to backup files on Dropbox.

"Broadband is the gatekeeper to the cloud," says Tony Wible, an analyst with Janney Capital Markets. "There's insatiable demand for broadband."

These high-speed Internet services represent the fastest growing and most profitable line of business for cable companies. Last year, providing Internet access was 12 percent more profitable for Time Warner Cable than providing TV packages, despite taking in a third less revenue. Time Warner Cable has so far resisted Charter's overtures, but Charter has vowed to take the bid directly to shareholders if needed.

A combined Charter-Time Warner Cable would occupy a crucial position in



Charter Communications CEO Thomas Rutledge is interviewed on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014. Time Warner Cable rose 2 percent after the company rejected a takeover offer from Charter Communications.

more homes. With about 16 million customers, it would become the country's No. 3 provider of both pay TV services and high-speed Internet.

With more pay TV subscribers, the company would be able to negotiate better deals and pay less to carry channels from such companies as Disney, Viacom and Discovery. And the combined company would have more future negotiating power over online video providers like Netflix — or even Sony Corp., which plans to launch an online TV service this year.

Both companies rely on Internet service providers to transmit data for video and games to consumers. After a federal appeals court ruled last month that cable Internet providers are no

longer required to treat all forms of traffic equally, the door has been opened for providers to charge streaming companies for priority access and faster speeds.

"Charter plus Time Warner Cable becomes an entity that is essential from a distribution standpoint for a Netflix or a Sony to exist," says Susan Crawford, a telecoms industry scholar and author of "Captive Audience: The Telecom Industry & Monopoly Power in the New Gilded Age." "It's about access to subscribers they won't get anywhere else."

For cable companies, Internet access services will become even more important if more people drop their TV services in favor of Netflix, Hulu and other online video services. Although

subscribers can easily drop TV to save money, they still need the Internet pipes for those online video alternatives.

The long-term value of cable operators "will mainly come from their use to provide broadband Internet service, not a video programming service which mainly comprises content that (has) been produced by others and, increasingly, will be available elsewhere on the Web," writes Andrew Sheehy, chief analyst of U.K.-based research firm Generator Research.

A combined Charter-Time Warner Cable would have a favorable service territory. Although Verizon's FiOS service offers better download speeds than cable, it would serve only about 10 percent of the combined

cable company's service territory, according to Charter. That means most households would have to turn to the new company for the best Internet service, and the company could charge top dollars.

So far, cable Internet providers have kept fee increases modest. They prefer having the Internet service become the anchor for which to sell bundles with TV and voice services. According to Time Warner Cable, its customers' use of Internet bandwidth is up 40 percent from a year ago.

It aims to double top speeds in New York to 100 megabits per second in February and has done so in Los Angeles already. This year, it is also targeting five markets to upgrade to as high as 300 megabits per second to satisfy user demand, although it didn't specify which ones. That faster speed would put it in line with Verizon's offering. Charter is also in the midst of transforming its service so that the slowest speed across its service territory will be 60 megabits per second — double the current minimum — by the end of the year.

Having more customers would increase the benefit of even a small price hike to consumers. It also sets up cable operators to potentially begin charging the giants of the Internet world. According to Janney's Wible, that sets up a long-term fight between "the collective interests of Google, Facebook, AOL, Netflix, Amazon, Twitter and many others against the cable lobby." □

Facebook read daily more than Bible

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facebook's numbers are epic. More Americans check Facebook daily than read the Bible and it has more monthly users worldwide than most continents have people.

Facebook, which celebrates its 10th anniversary Tuesday, says worldwide it has 757 million daily active

users. Of those 19 percent are in the U.S. and Canada, so that's more than 143 million people checking Facebook daily.

The Bible used to be the go-to for statistics about reading, pre-digital age. A 2006 CBS News poll found 15 percent of U.S. adults read the Bible or other religious texts daily. There are about 267 million adults in the U.S. and Canada. That means

about 40 million people reading the Bible daily.

And then there are monthly users — Facebook claims 1.23 billion of them. That's more people than live in any country but China. In fact, Facebook is beyond comparing to nations and is more continental in magnitude. Facebook's monthly user population is larger than six of the seven continents, only behind Asia.



This May 16, 2012 file photo shows the Facebook logo displayed on an iPad in Philadelphia. Associated Press

US stocks end down slightly, but cut losses

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

Wall Street took a step backward Wednesday. Then a tiny step forward. Then back.

The tentative dance amounted to little change for major U.S. stock indexes, which ended the day just below their prior day's levels.

For the week, stocks remained down, extending the sharp downturn for the year.

"We're seeing some buyers coming in on the weakness, but not enough to push the market higher," said Joe Bell, senior equity analyst with Schaeffer's Investment Research.

Stocks were down in pre-market trading and continued to slide for much of the day. A survey on U.S. hiring did little to ease uncertainty over the health of the American economy.

Many investors remain leery, waiting to see if upcoming economic reports and company earnings will show that the U.S. economic recovery is on track.

"This is about as flat as it gets," said Rex Macey, chief investment officer of Wilmington Trust Investment Advisors. "It's a market looking for direction." The Dow Jones industrial average fell 5.01 points, or 0.03 percent, to close at 15,440.23 Wednesday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped 3.56 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,751.64. The Nasdaq composite dropped 19.97 points, or 0.5 percent, to 4,011.55.

Six of the 10 sectors in the

S&P 500 finished lower. Telecoms and energy stocks registered the biggest industry declines.

Investors hammered trucking company C.H. Robinson Worldwide, which a day earlier reported fourth-quarter results that missed Wall Street estimates. Its shares fell \$5.48, or 9 per-

cent, pointing news about the U.S. manufacturing.

The Dow, which fell as much as 104 points Wednesday, ended the day down 6.9 percent for this year. The S&P 500 closed down 5.2 percent so far in 2014.

A private survey on Wednesday showed that U.S. businesses added jobs

vate businesses and often diverge from the government's more comprehensive report due out Friday. Investors are trying to get a clear picture of the U.S. economy and the prospect for corporate earnings growth this year, but they've had to sort through a bevy of mixed signals in



Trader James Riley works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014. The U.S. stock market edged lower in trading after a modest recovery the day before.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

cent, to \$53.16, to lead the S&P 500's decliners.

Cerner, a health care information technology provider, and cosmetics maker Estee Lauder were also among the stocks posting large losses. Cerner shares fell \$3.39, or nearly 6 percent, to \$53.21. Estee Lauder slumped \$3.83, or 5.5 percent, to \$65.36.

Markets started the week with a 326-point drop in the Dow, triggered by disap-

at a steady but modest pace in January, a sign that hiring has rebounded after a disappointing figure in December. Payroll processor ADP said companies added 175,000 jobs last month. That's down from 227,000 in December, which was revised lower. But it was much better than the government's official figure of just 74,000 new jobs in December. The ADP numbers cover only pri-

recent weeks.

There's been encouraging news — the nation's economy grew at a 3.2 percent annual rate in the October-December quarter on the strength of the strongest consumer spending in three years. But concerns are growing that the U.S. and global economies may be weakening due to slowing growth in China and in other emerging markets. □

Time Warner 4Q net income drops 12 pct

BREE FOWLER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Time Warner said Wednesday that its fourth-quarter net income dropped 12 percent, as investments in programing and other costs offset revenue growth.

The New York-based media and entertainment company's adjusted profit and revenue beat Wall Street predictions.

Revenue rose at Time Warner's Warner Bros., Turner and HBO arms, while it was flat at the company's Time Inc. publishing division, which the company said it still plans to spin off by the end of the second quarter. Time Warner's revenue rose 7 percent to \$4 billion, helped by the release of popular films such as "Gravity" and "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug." But that growth was partially offset by lower home video and TV licensing revenue.

Turner's revenue rose 3 percent to \$2.5 billion, mainly as a result of higher subscription revenue. Advertising revenue rose just 1 percent, as growth at its domestic entertainment networks was offset by the effects of lower spending on political advertising at its domestic news networks.

HBO's revenue also rose 6 percent to \$1.3 billion, as the company charged higher rates for its domestic service.

But the revenue gains were offset by investments in programing and other costs. Adjusted operating income fell at both Turner and HBO, while rising at Warner Bros.

Time Warner earned \$983 million, or \$1.06 per share, compared with \$1.11 billion, or \$1.15 per share, in the same quarter a year ago.

Excluding one-time items, the company posted an adjusted profit of \$1.17 per share. Analysts surveyed by FactSet expected \$1.15 per share. □

Disney 1Q helped by 'Frozen,' 'Infinity'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Walt Disney Co. on Wednesday reported earnings and revenue for the holiday quarter that beat Wall Street's expectations, helped by movie hits like "Frozen" and sales of its "Disney Infinity" console game.

Net income in the fiscal first quarter through Dec. 28 rose to \$1.84 billion, or \$1.03 per share, from \$1.38 billion, or 77 cents per share, a year ago.

Excluding restructuring charges and other items, adjusted earnings came to \$1.04 per share, beating the 92 cents expected by analysts polled by FactSet. Revenue rose 9 percent to \$12.31 billion, beating the \$12.25 billion expected by analysts.

Shares rose \$1.09, or 1.5 percent, to \$72.85 in after-hours trading Wednesday, after already gaining 71 cents to close at \$71.76 in

the regular session.

Along with the strong movie studio results, revenue and profit grew for its TV networks, as growth at ESPN offset weakness at ABC. Higher theme park ticket prices and more guest spending offset higher costs associated with the launch of its MyMagic+ bracelet, which helps visitors plan their trip and buy merchandise.

The consumer products di-

vision also grew, thanks to the inclusion of Lucasfilm items following Disney's acquisition of the maker of "Star Wars" in late 2012. Disney plans to release a sequel, "Star Wars: Episode VII," in December 2015. CEO Bob Iger said in a statement the quarter's results were "incredibly strong" and reflected the company's successful portfolio of brands, including those from studios Pixar and Marvel. □

Twitter posts 4Q loss but beats estimates

BARBARA ORTUTAY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Twitter beat Wall Street's earnings and revenue expectations in its first quarter as a public company. But investors were looking for even more — including faster user growth — and the company's stock dipped as much as 12 percent in after-hours trading Wednesday.

Twitter reported a loss of \$511 million, or \$1.41 per share, in the October-December quarter. That compares with a loss of \$8.7 million, or 7 cents per share, a year earlier. Adjusted earnings were 2 cents per share.

Twitter's revenue more than doubled to \$243 million from \$112 million.

Analysts, on average, had expected an adjusted loss of 2 cents per share and revenue of \$218.1 million, according to FactSet.

Twitter ended the quarter with 241 million monthly users, up 30 percent from a year earlier. That's slightly fewer than some analysts expected. Sterne Agee's Arvind Bhatia was looking

for 244 million users, an increase of 32 percent.

But compared with the end of the third quarter, Twitter's user growth is slowing down. The company added just 9 million

growth," said Gartner analyst Brian Blau.

"Maybe that wasn't the high standard that we have come to expect from (the likes of) Facebook," he added. Besides growing its

Street debut in November with an initial public offering price of \$26. The stock price has more than doubled since. Analysts remain confident about Twitter's business and long-term

trouble ahead. That's because Twitter's usefulness isn't as readily apparent to many people as Facebook and LinkedIn. It takes just a few minutes to understand that Facebook is an easy way to create a digital scrapbook that can be shared with friends and family and that LinkedIn is a great place to post your professional achievements in hopes of getting better jobs. □



An updated phone post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange features a Twitter logo, in New York. Twitter Inc. reported mixed quarterly earnings on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

new monthly users, a slowdown from the previous three quarters, when it was adding an average of 16 million new accounts each quarter.

Even so, "they did have

user base, Twitter "did OK on revenue" and on other fronts, Blau said.

"They have good business standards."

San Francisco-based Twitter Inc. made its Wall

prospects, but many are calling its stock expensive compared with peers such as Facebook and LinkedIn. Blau thinks it's too early to conclude whether Twitter's slowing user growth signals

Merck Q4 net drops 14% on generic competition

LINDA A. JOHNSON

AP Business Writer

WHITEHOUSE

STATION,

New Jersey (AP) — Merck & Co. reported a 14 percent decline in fourth-quarter profit as generic competition continued to cut into sales of one-time blockbuster medicines, and unfavorable currency exchange rates reduced overseas revenue. Results fell just short of Wall Street expectations, but company shares appeared to be headed for six-year highs before the opening bell Wednesday after the world's third-biggest drug-maker announced a new and potentially lucrative alliance. Merck entered into collaboration agreements with three other drugmakers to test its hot experimental cancer drug in combination with theirs. The drug, known only as MK-3475, is in a new class of cancer medicines that are meant to restore the

immune systems's natural ability to spot and target cancer cells. In premarket trading, Merck shares rose \$1.11 to \$54.62. Shares last traded in that range in early 2008. Merck reported net income of \$781 million, or 26 cents per share, down from \$908 million, or 30 cents per share, a year earlier. The maker of Type 2 diabetes pill Januvia said that excluding one-time items, net income was \$2.6 billion, or 88 cents per share. That's a penny shy of Wall Street expectations, according to a poll by FactSet. Revenue totaled \$11.32 billion, down 4 percent. Analysts expected \$11.36 billion.

Merck, based in Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, forecast 2014 profit of \$2.25 to \$2.47 per share, or \$3.35 to \$3.53 per share, excluding one-time items. Analysts are projecting earnings of \$3.46 per share.

"In 2013 we took decisive

action to sharpen our focus, reduce our cost structure and advance our innovative research and development," CEO Kenneth Frazier said in a statement. "This year we are excited about the potential of our near- and long-term pipe-

line, poised for long-term growth and committed to providing continued value to patients, customers and our shareholders." For the full year, Merck reported net income of \$4.04 billion, or \$1.47 per share, on revenue of \$44.03 billion. □

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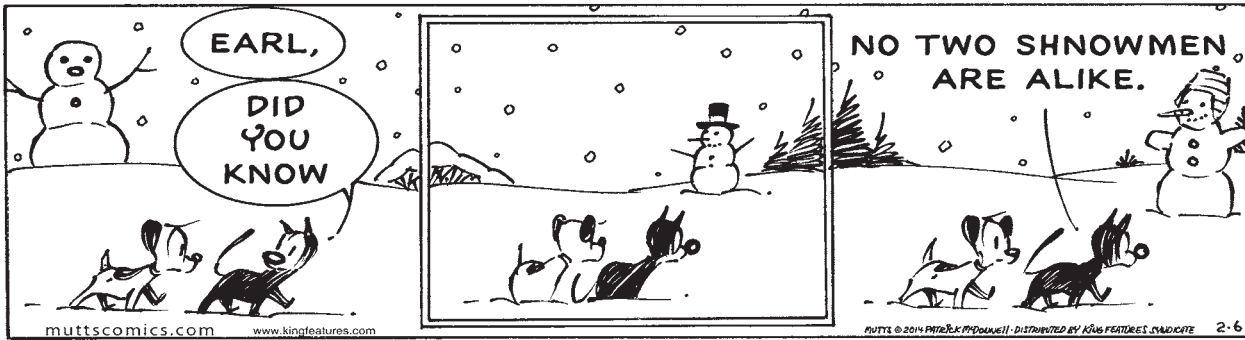
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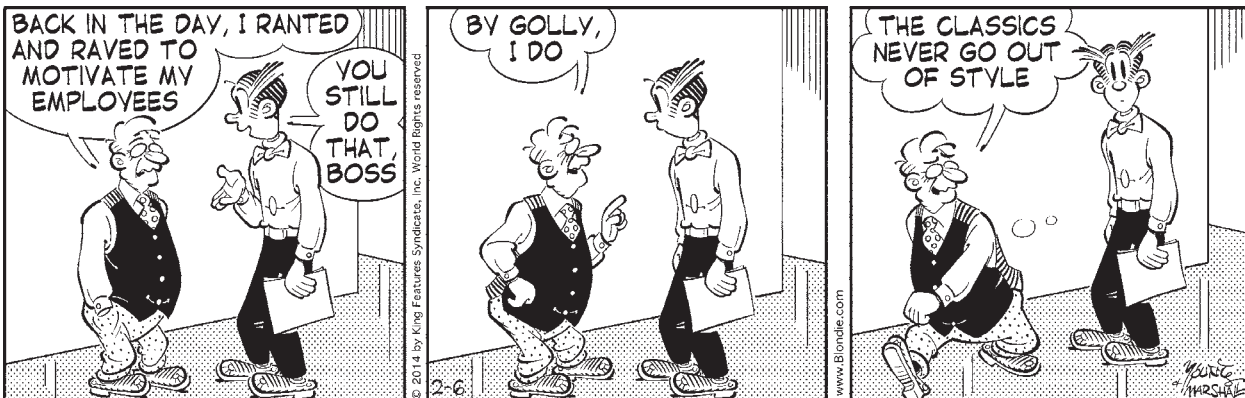
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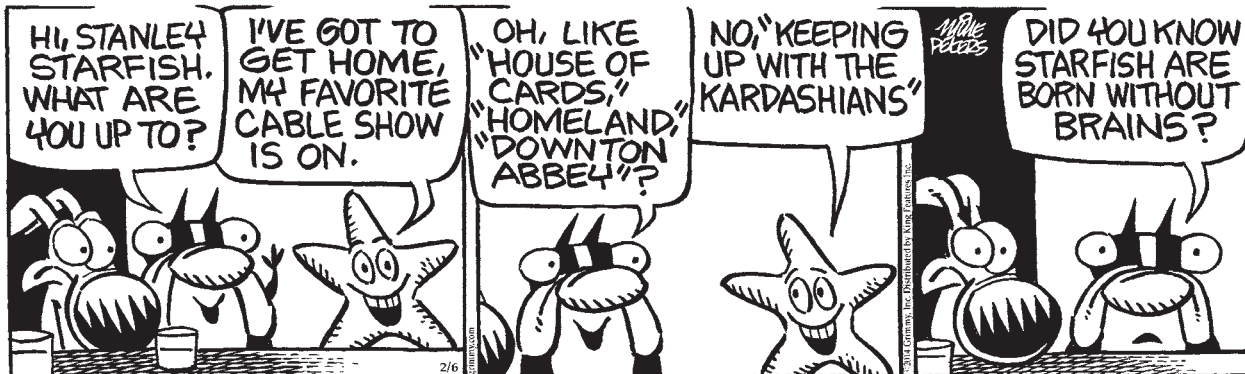
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			1			6	
3	4			6		5	9
	7			2			
		5					6
	9					4	
2					8		
			3			1	
	6	1		9		8	7
	5			7			

Difficulty Level ★★★

2/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

7	6	3	2	9	8	1	4	5
4	1	8	6	7	5	2	9	3
5	9	2	4	3	1	7	6	8
3	2	4	8	1	6	9	5	7
6	8	7	9	5	2	3	1	4
9	5	1	7	4	3	8	2	6
2	4	9	5	8	7	6	3	1
8	3	5	1	6	9	4	7	2
1	7	6	3	2	4	5	8	9

ACROSS

- Sings without words
- of time; early
- Puncture
- Resting on
- Shampoo brand
- Give up, as territory
- "A of Two Cities"
- Part of a flower
- Mistiness
- Grain bundles
- Manual worker
- Relatives
- Faithful
- Pompous fools
- Safety ; closed fastener
- Wooden shoe
- Derogatory remark
- Up until now
- Manly
- "Anybody Seen My Gal?"
- Subscription extension
- Short swim
- Resounds
- Galloped
- One of the 12 sons of Jacob
- Small rowboat
- Is able to
- Like a winter coat
- Wild
- Talk on and on
- Chopped off
- Of the national government
- Primary
- Actor Cibrán
- Uncommon
- Footed vases
- Fib tellers
- High point
- Delight
- Feel; perceive
- Not as much
- DOWN
- Sombreros and derbies

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21			22		23			
			24			25						
26	27	28			29			30	31	32	33	
34				35			36					
37				38			39			40		
41		42			43				44			
45					46			47				
			48	49			50					
51	52	53				54			55	56	57	
58				59		60			61			
62				63				64				
65				66				67				

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/6/14

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

IMP	ISLES	SHIN
REAM	SHOVE	CONE
ALLY	RAVEN	URNS
TESTAMENT	LAST	
TREE	RAP	
APPEAL	PAINTERS	
HAIRY	FIRED	MEL
ENVY	HINTS	NOSE
ADO	FORTS	BATED
DATELESS	RENEWS	
BUD	CAAN	
SLOB	OBTAINING	
TAXI	WEIRD	EYED
OVEN	NERVE	SEAR
PANG	SNEER	TRY

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2/6/14

- to; cite
- Pale
- Take to;
- Broad-minded
- Golfer's aide
- Boy
- Becomes dizzy
- Honking birds
- Self-righteous
- British noble
- Grape plant
- Forest trees
- Track-and-field event
- Upper limbs
- Spike & Bruce
- Actor Aykroyd

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Dennis Aabo Sørensen, of Aalborg, Denmark, who lost his left hand in a fireworks accident a decade ago, shows the sensory feedback enabled prosthesis he is testing in Rome, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014.

Associated Press

LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — To feel what you touch — that's the holy grail for artificial limbs. In a step toward that goal, European researchers created a robotic hand that let an amputee feel differences between a bottle, a baseball and a mandarin orange. The patient only got to experiment with the bulky prototype for a week, and it's far from the bionics of science fiction movies. But the research released Wednesday is part of a major effort to create more

lifelike, and usable, prosthetics. "It was just amazing," said Dennis Aabo Sørensen of Aalborg, Denmark, who lost his left hand in a fireworks accident a decade ago and volunteered to pilot-test the new prosthetic. "It was the closest I have had to feeling like a normal hand." This isn't the first time scientists have tried to give some sense of touch to artificial hands; a few other pilot projects have been reported in the U.S. and Europe. But this newest experiment, published in the journal Sci-

Experiment adds sense of touch to artificial hand



This undated handout photo provided by Science Translational Medicine shows neuroengineer Silvestro Micera, researcher at EPFL and Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna holding a bionic hand.

Associated Press

ence Translational Medicine, shows Sørensen not only could tell differences in the shape and hardness of objects, he also could quickly react and adjust his grasp.

"It was interesting to see how fast he was able to master this," said neuroengineer Silvestro Micera of Switzerland's Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, who led the Swiss and Italian research team. "He was able to use this information immediately in a quite sophisticated way." Scientists have made great strides in recent years in improving the dexterity of prosthetics. But the sense of touch has been a much more difficult challenge, and is one reason that many patients don't use their prosthetic hands as much as they'd like.

Consider: Grab something and your own hand naturally grasps with just enough force to hang on. Users of prosthetic hands have to carefully watch every motion, judging by eye instead of touch how tightly to squeeze. The results can be clumsy, with dropped dishes or crushed objects. "You always have to look and see what's going on, so that's what is so much different from this new hand

that I tried," Sørensen, 36, said in a telephone interview.

First, doctors at Rome's Gemelli Hospital implanted tiny electrodes inside two nerves — the ulnar and median nerves — in the stump of Sørensen's arm.

Those nerves normally would allow for certain sensations in a hand. When researchers zapped them with a weak electrical signal, Sørensen said it felt like his missing fingers were moving, showing the nerves still could relay information.

Meanwhile, Micera's team put sensors on two fingers of a robotic hand, to detect information about what the artificial fingers touched.

For one week, cords snaked from a bandage on Sørensen's arm to the artificial hand, and the electrodes zapped the nerves in proportion to what the sensors detected.

They essentially created a loop that let the robotic hand rapidly communicate with Sørensen's brain. "It is really putting the brain back in control of the system," said biomedical engineer Dustin Tyler of Case Western Reserve University, who wasn't involved with the European work but

leads a team in Ohio that recently created and tested a similar touch-enabled hand. "That's an important step."

Added neurobiologist Andrew Schwartz of the University of Pittsburgh: "It shows with a few sensors and some pretty elementary technology, that they can recover a fair amount of functionality."

To be sure Sørensen used touch, and didn't cheat by looking or hearing telltale sounds, he wore a blindfold and headphones as Micera's team handed him different objects.

"Suddenly I could tell if it was a hard object," Sørensen recalled, describing sensations that changed along with his grip. "The response, the feedback from the arm to my nerves and to my brain, they came very strong."

Micera cautioned that it will take several years of additional research to create a first-generation artificial hand that can feel, and looks more like a traditional prosthetic. First, they have to prove these nerve implants can last; for safety reasons, Sørensen's were surgically removed after the experiment. But a lot of work is under way. □

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Flea: Red Hot Chili Peppers mimed Super Bowl song

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer

The Red Hot Chili Peppers decided long ago they were never going to mime a live performance. The band made an exception for the National Football League, it turns out. The group's bassist, Flea, said in a letter to fans posted on the group's website Tuesday that the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame members pretended to play along to a pre-taped track of "Give It Away" during the American football championship Super Bowl halftime show as Anthony Kiedis sang live. The request came from NFL officials who felt it was too difficult to pull off a completely live performance because of potential sound issues.

The admission came after observers noted Flea and his bandmates weren't plugged in while performing Sunday at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Flea wrote on the band's website that the opportunity was too big for the lifelong football fans to turn down. After internal debate, dubiously checking with fellow musicians and consulting with headliner Bruno Mars, they decided it was "a surreal-like, once in a life time crazy thing to do and we would just have fun and do it."

The 51-year-old said the group pre-recorded a unique instrumental track for the show. He didn't directly address whether Mars also recorded instru-



The Red Hot Chili Peppers perform during the halftime show of the NFL Super Bowl XLVIII football game between the Seattle Seahawks and the Denver Broncos Sunday, Feb. 2, 2014, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

LeBron James teams up with Starz for comedy series



Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) advances the ball against New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Feb. 1, 2014, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP) - LeBron James is no stranger to getting the greenlight to shoot, but this time it's for a scripted comedy series set in the world of professional basketball.

Starz network is giving the go-ahead his sitcom, "Survivor's Remorse."

The Miami Heat star will serve as an executive producer of the half-hour show. He will team with Tom Werner, a force behind series such as "The Cosby Show" and "Roseanne." Actor-writer Mike O'Malley will also be an executive producer.

The story follows Cam Calloway, a basketball phe-

nom in his early twenties who is thrust into prominence after signing a multi-million-dollar contract with a pro team in Atlanta. The series will shoot in Atlanta. Its six-episode first season airs this fall. The network didn't announce any cast members. □

mental tracks for his appearance, though he said Mars was aware they did. A publicist for Mars did not

immediately respond to an email requesting comment. A record 115 million people tuned into watch Mars and

the Peppers, besting audiences of 114 million for Madonna and 110 million for Beyonce. □

'Archetype' looks at how much memories define us



This book cover image released by Dutton shows "Archetype," by M.D. Waters.

Associated Press

M.L. JOHNSON
Associated Press

"Archetype" (Dutton), by M.D. Waters

If you were born again but lacked the memories of

this lifetime, would you be you? And if you weren't, who would you be?

Those are the fundamental questions in M.D. Waters' gripping debut novel. Emma wakes from an accident to an enviable situation. She's married to an attractive and wealthy man who wants nothing more than to make her happy. But slowly, lies surface. Despite claims that they have been married for years, her doting husband is surprised by her talent as an artist. He buys her a perfume that she's allergic to. And then there is the voice in her head — another woman who shares memories of a camp where women are trained to be obedient wives, a water-filled tank

from which she cannot escape, and perhaps most disturbingly, love for another man.

Emma becomes convinced that she is the voice in her head and that she was plucked from a previous life that she can barely remember.

The truth, when it comes, is even more disturbing. She shares genes with the woman who is the voice in her head, but she is not her; Emma is a clone. The husband she loves is not hers. The child she longs for is not her daughter.

The revelation leaves Emma reeling and sets off a chain of events that destroys her life and that of her original. "Archetype" is the literary equivalent of a big-

screen blockbuster with its beautiful but deadly heroine, tragic love triangle and grim futuristic setting. The closest thing in print may be Margaret Atwood's "The Handmaid's Tale," but Emma is Offred with mixed martial arts training. Given a chance to flee the male-dominated, baby-obsessed culture in which she has been ensnared, Emma picks up a gun and goes down fighting.

Except that's not the end. □

"Archetype" finishes with a cliffhanger made even more tantalizing by Dutton's promise to publish the sequel, "Prototype," in six months. The prospect has me more excited than the next "Hunger Games" movie. □

Singer Clay Aiken to run for U.S. Congress

GARY D. ROBERTSON

Associated Press

RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) — Singer Clay Aiken, the former “American Idol” and “Celebrity Apprentice” runner-up, joined another high-profile contest Wednesday — this one to get elected to Congress in his native North Carolina.

The openly gay singer announced he would seek the Democratic nomination for the House of Representatives seat held by Republican Congresswoman Renee Ellmers. Aiken is talking about his non-musical career as a special education teacher, UNICEF representative and presidential commission member on education while explaining his reason for getting in the race.

In each situation, “I saw a group of people, a population that was not being served,” Aiken told The Associated Press in an interview. In a video unveiling his bid, Aiken referred to his “golden ticket” — finishing as the runner-up in TV’s 2003 “Idol” competition, which has led to several albums and a role in a Broadway musical. But he said he empathizes with those struggling in the district where he lives, referring to his upbringing by a mother who fled domestic violence.

“For most Americans, there are no golden tickets — at least not like the kind you see on TV,” he says to the camera. “More families are struggling today than at any time in our history, and here in North Carolina, we’ve suffered more than our share of pain.”

Aiken, 35, is expected to face two opponents in the Democratic primary in May. Winning the seat will be a challenge. Political experts consider the district, which covers outside his native Raleigh, Republican-leaning. Mitt Romney won 58 percent of the vote in the district in the 2012 presidential race, according to a North Carolina Chamber analysis.

Ellmers, a two-term congresswoman, faces her own primary challenge from a conservative radio talk show host, and she has been criticized by tea party forces who helped her get elected as not conservative enough. She narrowly defeated an incumbent Democrat in 2010, before the district was redrawn to become more safely Republican.

Aiken said that he considers Washington dysfunctional and that he would focus on jobs, the economy and education. He said President Barack Obama’s health care law needs to be changed but shouldn’t be repealed. He supports abortion rights and considers his political philosophy in the broad middle between political extremes — he said he was once a registered independent voter. “I’m not a politician. I don’t ever want to be one,” he says in the video. “But I do want to help bring back — at least to my corner of North Carolina — the idea that someone can go to Washington to represent all the people, whether they voted for you or not.” Aiken announced in 2008 that he is gay. He has a 5-year-old son conceived through in-vitro fertilization with a female friend. □



In this March 28, 2009 file photo, singer Clay Aiken attends the 20th Annual Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) Media Awards in New York.

Associated Press

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this Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014 photo, from left, actor Bob Balaban, director, screenwriter and actor, George Clooney, actor John Goodman, actor Bill Murray, actress Cate Blanchett, actor Matt Damon and screenwriter Grant Heslov pose during a photocall for “The Monuments Men” at the Four Seasons Hotel, in Los Angeles. The World War II drama opens Friday, Feb 7, 2014.

‘The Monuments Men’ pulls an A-team cast

By MARCELA ISAZA
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When a leading Hollywood actor decides to make a movie, casting usually becomes as easy as dialing some of your closest A-list buddies.

At least that’s the way it worked for George Clooney on the new World War II drama, “The Monuments Men,” opening Friday. “Well, they are friends so that part is easy,” Clooney said in a recent joint interview with the cast. “But you know the truth is, they wouldn’t do it if they didn’t like the screenplay. ... I mean I flew to Australia for one day to hand Cate (Blanchett) the script.”

The beginning of the film has an “Ocean’s 11” feel to it when Clooney’s character starts to assemble an A-team of old friends. But this time, they’re the good guys. “The Monuments Men” — also starring Blanchett, Matt Damon, John Goodman and Bill Murray, to name a few — is based on the true story of an Allied platoon whose mission was to rescue artworks from the Nazis. The film is adapted from Robert Edsel’s book, “The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History.”

Blanchett admitted she was unfamiliar with the works of the Monuments Men until she received the hand-delivered script from Clooney, who also directed and was co-writer. “I knew that work had gone missing and that the Nazis had collected art and stolen art and destroyed art,” said Blanchett. Bill Murray was happy to finally work on a big film again. “Yeah, I got teased for a while (by George Clooney). He told me the whole story and then he would say, ‘Can you please pass the salad?’ Then like nine months later through a friend, he said, ‘Ask Bill if he wants to be in the job.’”

of the film and walks off into this beautiful church with this beautiful light and it goes to black and normally that would be like the first credit that comes up and instead I put, ‘In Loving Memory of Nick Clooney.’ He said, ‘What the hell are you doing?’ I said, ‘Well, you know, it’s a long time before the movie comes out so you never know.’ I didn’t leave it in the film but he thought it was very funny and he is going to get me back.”

The movie originally had a planned release date of Dec. 18 but was pushed to early 2014 and right out of Hollywood’s prestigious awards season. This year was especially crowded, with an abundance of viable Oscar contenders. So was there too much competition?

“We just didn’t finish it,” Clooney explained. “We had a lot of work to do. It’s a bigger film. You know, we started shooting this movie in March of last year, so we were going to have to flip it around in nine months, which is really moving for a film that size, and we just didn’t make it.” □

“Well I screened the movie for him in Italy,” said George Clooney. “My father plays me at the end of the film and walks off into this beautiful church with this beautiful light and it goes to black and normally that would be like the first credit that comes up and instead I put, ‘In Loving Memory of Nick Clooney.’ He said, ‘What the hell are you doing?’ I said, ‘Well, you know, it’s a long time before the movie comes out so you never know.’ I didn’t leave it in the film but he thought it was very funny and he is going to get me back.”

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A Wonderful Country



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
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TEL AVIV, Israel - One of the most popular shows on Israeli TV is called "Eretz Nehederet" or "A Wonderful Country." It's a comedy show that lives to make fun of Israeli politicians and the absurdities of life here. It recently opened its 2014 season with a cartoon graphic of a beautiful, multicolored, flower-filled garden with a butterfly fluttering across the screen. Then, suddenly, a concrete wall rises up all around the garden, which was an image the producers used last year. But this season, not only does the wall emerge but a glass dome rises out of the wall and seals off this Garden of Eden from above as well.

This scene is noteworthy for a couple of reasons: I've long believed that the Israeli-Arab conflict is to the wider global war of civilizations what off-Broadway is to Broadway. It is the small laboratory where trends get tested first, or are perfected, and then go global - from airline hijacking to suicide bombing to the attempt, through force and rebuilding, to create a negotiating partner out of a traditional foe (Israel in Lebanon 1982 and with the Palestinians in the Oslo process; America in Iraq and Afghanistan).

So it is useful to ask: What's playing off-Broadway now? What do you see? You see Israel, as in the "Eretz Nehederet" skit, literally trying to wall itself off from the multiplying threats around it and contending with all the ethical dilemmas that entails. And you see a wider region that is no longer divided along pro-U.S. and pro-Soviet lines, socialist or capitalist, secular or religious. You see instead a region increasingly divided between "the world of order" and "the world of disorder." What Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kurdistan, Turkey, the Gulf states and even to a lesser degree the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank all have in common is that they are islands of order, where at least there is someone to answer the phone, it doesn't come off the wall when they do and there is a minimum of human security.

That is less and less true today in Syria, Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Lebanon and Iraq, not to mention nearby Somalia, Eritrea and northern and southern Sudan.

Guess how many African migrants, mostly from South Sudan, Eritrea and Uganda, have entered Israel in recent years and are here illegally: 54,000! Stroll around the Central Bus Station

in Tel Aviv, where many have found shelter, and you'll see African men on cellphones on every street. They sailed, walked or drove to Israel's borders and either slipped in on their own or were smuggled in by Bedouins across Egypt's Sinai Desert. That's why the latest fence Israel has built is along the Israel-Sinai frontier. The Sinai is so out of control that last week Islamist militants shot down an Egyptian military helicopter there with a surface-to-air missile believed to have been smuggled in from Libya after Moammar Gadhafi's arsenals were broken into during his overthrow.

I chatted with a Christian Eritrean - "Mark," age 26 - who opened a makeshift clothing and Internet shop near the bus station. Sitting under a Bob Marley poster, he told me that he had fled from Eritrea's brutal government to Ethiopia, then to Sudan, then to Libya, tried to sail to Italy but got turned back and eventually walked to Israel. He's now living here illegally with his father, he said, because Israel has the "most security."

I wonder if the torrid pace of technological change, the rising education demands for running a successful economy, the superempowerment of individuals to organize as militants or come together against corrupt governments and environmental and population stresses aren't putting unbearable pressure on fragile states - particularly multisectional and multiethnic ones - and literally blowing them apart. And there is no Soviet Union or America to hold them together as in the Cold War.

The PowerPoint maps that Israeli military briefers use for Sinai, Gaza, Lebanon and Syria today consist of multicolored circles, and inside each are clusters of different armed groups. Israel is like a Petri dish of the new world, with nonstate actors, armed with rockets, dressed as civilians and nested among civilians on four out of its five borders: Sinai, Gaza, Lebanon and Syria.

I understand why all this makes even some moderate Israeli military leaders more wary about any West Bank withdrawal. But the status quo is not neutral. Israel needs to do all it can to avoid turning itself into a kind of forced binational state - with a hostile minority in its belly - by permanently holding onto the West Bank and its 2.5 million Palestinians. That's exactly the kind of states blowing up in the world of disorder. And it's why the success of John Kerry's peace mission is so important for Israelis, and Palestinians.

You don't want to be in these wars. This is not your grandfather's battlefield. When the enemy is nested in homes and apartments and no one wears a uniform but everyone has a cellphone camera, you have a real strategic and moral challenge - as the United States has discovered with its own drone wars. It's hard to defeat this enemy without killing a lot of civilians. □



Dylan Farrow's Story



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
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When Woody Allen received a Golden Globe award for lifetime achievement a few weeks ago, there was a lively debate about whether it was appropriate to honor a man who is an artistic giant but also was accused years ago of child molestation.

Allen's defenders correctly note that he denies the allegations, has never been convicted and should be presumed innocent. People weighed in on all sides, but one person who hasn't been heard out is Dylan Farrow, 28, the writer and artist whom Allen was accused of molesting.

Dylan, Allen's adopted daughter who is now married and living in Florida under a different name, tells me that she has been traumatized for more than two decades by what took place; last year, she was belatedly diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. She says that when she heard of the Golden Globe award being given to Allen, she curled up in a ball on her bed, crying hysterically.

With everyone else commenting, she decided to weigh in as well. (Full disclosure: I am a friend of her mother, Mia, and brother Ronan, and that's how Dylan got in touch with me.) She has written a letter that I'm posting in full on my blog, nytimes.com/

onthe ground. I reached out to Allen several days ago, and he declined to comment on the record.

Dylan writes:

That he got away with what he did to me haunted me as I grew up. I was stricken with guilt that I had allowed him to be near other little girls. I was terrified of being touched by men. I developed an eating disorder. I began cutting myself.

That torment was made worse by Hollywood.

All but a precious few (my heroes) turned a blind eye. Most found it easier to accept the ambiguity, to say, "who can say what happened," to pretend that nothing was wrong. Actors praised him at awards shows. Networks put him on TV. Critics put him in magazines. Each time I saw my abuser's face - on a poster, on a T-shirt, on television - I could only hide my panic until I found a place to be alone and fall apart.

A firestorm erupted in 1992 over allegations described as "inappropriate touching" - in fact, what Dylan recounts is far worse, a sexual assault. She was 7 years old.

There were charges and countercharges. A panel of psychiatrists sided with Allen, a judge more with Dylan and her mother. A Connecticut prosecutor said that there was enough evidence for a criminal case against Allen but that he was dropping criminal proceedings to spare Dylan. Look, none of us can be certain what happened.

The standard to send someone to prison is guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, but shouldn't the standard to honor someone be that they are unimpeachably, well, honorable?

Yet the Golden Globes sided with Allen, in effect accusing Dylan either of lying or of not mattering. That's the message that celebri-

ties in film, music and sports too often send to abuse victims.

"I know it's 'he said, she said,'" Dylan told me. "But, to me, it's black and white, because I was there."

I asked her why she's speaking out now. She said she wanted to set the record straight and give courage to victims: "I was thinking, if I don't speak out, I'll regret it on my death bed."

These are extremely tough issues, and certainty isn't available. But hundreds of thousands of boys and girls are abused each year, and they deserve support and sensitivity. When evidence is ambiguous, do we really need to leap to our feet and lionize an alleged molester?

But I want to leave you with a sense of Dylan's resolve. She declares:

This time, I refuse to fall apart. For so long, Woody Allen's acceptance silenced me. It felt like a personal rebuke, like the awards and accolades were a way to tell me to shut up and go away. But the survivors of sexual abuse who have reached out to me - to support me and to share their fears of coming forward, of being called a liar, of being told their memories aren't their memories - have given me a reason to not be silent, if only so others know that they don't have to be silent either.

Today, I consider myself lucky. I am happily married. I have the support of my amazing brothers and sisters. I have a mother who found within herself a well of fortitude that saved us from the chaos a predator brought into our home.

But others are still scared, vulnerable, and struggling for the courage to tell the truth. The message that Hollywood sends matters for them.

That's something for all of us, even those who aren't stars, to reflect on. □

Facebook barrels ahead on 10th anniversary

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It has been 10 years since a Harvard sophomore named Mark Zuckerberg created a website called Thefacebook.com to let his classmates find their friends online.

They did. And in the decade since, so have more than a billion people, not just American college students but also farmers in India, activists in Egypt and pop stars in South Korea.

Facebook has transformed how much of the world communicates. Zuckerberg's insistence that people use real identities, not quirky screen names, helped blur, if not erase entirely, the divide between our online and offline worlds. Long-lost friends are no longer lost. They are on Facebook.

From its roots as a website with no ads, no business plan and a hacker ethic, Facebook has grown into a company worth \$150 billion, with 6,337 employees and sprawling headquarters in the heart of Silicon Valley. Born in the age of desktop computers, three years before the iPhone's debut, Facebook is now mainly accessed on mobile devices. Many of these mobile users never had a PC.

"People often ask if I always knew that Facebook would become what it is today. No way," Zuckerberg wrote — where else — on his Facebook page Tuesday. "I remember getting pizza with my friends one night in college shortly after opening Facebook. I told them I was excited to help connect our school community, but one day someone needed to connect the whole world."

Facebook has had plenty of stumbles along the way, from privacy concerns to user protests when Facebook introduced new features, not to mention a rocky public stock debut in 2012. Even its origin was the subject of a lawsuit and a Hollywood movie.

So far, though, Facebook has trudged on.



This Feb. 5, 2007 file photo shows Facebook.com founder Mark Zuckerberg smiling at Facebook headquarters in Palo Alto, Calif. On Feb. 4, 2014, Facebook celebrates 10 years since Mark Zuckerberg created a website called Thefacebook.com to let his classmates find their friends online.

Associated Press



BOOK- In this Sunday, May 13, 2012, file photo, flowers are added to a Facebook sign in front of Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif. On Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014.

Associated Press

As Facebook enters its second decade, the company faces a new set of challenges in reaching the next billion users, the billion after that, and the one after that, including the majority of the world without Internet access. It must also keep the existing set interested even as younger, hipper rivals emerge and try to lure them away.

There are 1.23 billion Facebook users today, or roughly 17 percent of the world's population. Although that's far from connecting the whole world, Facebook is here to stay. It's reached critical mass.

"One of the things Facebook has been good at is that it's very easy to use and understand," said Paul Levinson, professor of communications and media studies at Fordham Univer-

sity. "It's a much friendlier system than any email system."

Javier Olivan joined Facebook Inc. as vice president of growth and analytics in 2007. It was a different time. Myspace was the dominant online hangout with 200 million members. Facebook had 30 million.

Facebook's user base had been accelerating steadily, Olivan said, as it expanded from Harvard's campus to other colleges, then high schools, and in 2006, anyone over 13. Users in the U.K. and other English-speaking countries then began signing up.

But around 2007, growth plateaued.

"The thinking at the time was (that) we'll never have 100 million users," Olivan said. "That's when the growth team was cre-

ated."

If Facebook was going to connect the world, as its mission states, it couldn't be an English-only service. So Facebook turned to its users to help translate the site. A Spanish version came in 2008, followed by dozens of others. Growth accelerated again, and



INDIA-In this June 19, 2013 file photo, an Indonesian youth browses his Facebook page at an Internet cafe in Jakarta, Indonesia. On Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014.

Associated Press

volunteer translators are still adding new tongues, whether that's native African languages or pirate slang.

Facebook got its 100 million users by August 2008 and half a billion two years later. By 2012, a billion people were logging in to Facebook at least once a month.

While sharing photos and updates with friends is a universal experience, Facebook is customized

depending on where you live. In Japan, for example, users can list their blood type on their profiles, as it's something that would typically come up in conversation when you meet someone — kind of like horoscopes in the U.S.

Beyond language, another hurdle was mobile. The iPhone came along in 2007, and Facebook's iPhone app soon followed. But the app was slow and buggy, fueling concerns that it wouldn't be able to transform into a "mobile-first" company, as it wanted to be. About the time of its initial public offering of stock, potential investors fretted about its ability to make money from mobile ads.

That's no longer an issue. Facebook's stock is trading near record highs. The majority of the company's advertising revenue now comes from mobile, rather than Web ads.

No doubt other challenges will come.

"At some point there will

be barriers such as illiteracy, (creating) hardware for people who can't read and write," Olivan said.

Content on the Internet will have to be translated into languages that are barely represented online today.

"That's why this is a 10-year undertaking," he said. "The entire industry has to tackle the problem."

On any given day, 81 percent of Facebook's users are outside the U.S. and Canada. □